FBIS DAILY REPORT

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ARIAS ON U.S. LIBYA STRIKE, C.A. SITUATION

PA181524 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1330 GMT 18 Apr 86

[Text] Costa Rican President-elect Oscar Arias Sanchez has said in Rio de Janeiro that the U.S. bombing of Libyan cities may increase world tension and threaten peace. We condemn terrorism. Of course, we believe that terrorism is one of the greatest threats in the world now. However, we also worry about the attempt to try to fight terrorism with acts such as the attack on Libya, Arias said at a news conference held during his tour of South America. He concluded his 3-day visit to Brazil and left for Buenos Aires, Argentina. Later he will go to Peru, Uruguay, and Bolivia.

The president-elect said that the Costa Rican Government is trying to make Costa Rica's neutrality effective in Central American conflicts and to prevent the use of Costa Rican territory by irregular troops that oppose established governments. He said that he is optimistic about the possibility of the signing of the Contadora peace document at the meeting of the five Central American states to be held soon. However, he warned that to sign the document and secure the compliance of its provisions, Nicaragua must [words indistinct] make some concessions [words indistinct].

He also thanked Brazilians for their support and stressed the need for the achievement of peace in Central America. He also noted that Nicaragua and El Salvador are spending 60 percent of their budgets in arms, thus making the development of the region difficult. He stressed that under his administration Costa Rica will adopt a position of neutrality in the face of the military conflicts affecting the subcontinent. He emphasized: We will not permit Costa Rica to be used as a base for war activities. Costa Rica is not a problem for Central America; Central America is a problem for Costa Rica, Arias said, adding: We object to Soviet and Cuban aid to rebels in the region; however, we also object to military aid from the United States to countries in the area.

PORTO ALEGRE PROTESTORS MARCH TO U.S. CONSULATE

PY190350 Rio de Janeiro Radio Globo Network in Portuguese 0321 GMT 19 Apr 86

[Text] Anonymous telephone calls, demanding vengeance against the Americans for the attacks against Tripoli and Benghazi, are not limited to the United States. They continued through the world over the past few hours. Demonstrations against President Ronald Reagan's action continued everywhere. In Porto Alegre, dozens of people participated in a march through the streets of the capital of Rio Grande do Sul state, marching to the U.S. consulate, where they delivered a letter of protest to U.S. consul (George Lennon). The Rio Grande do Sul people were shouting: Reagan; terrorist, murderer, imperialist.

AUTOMATION, COMPUTER SECTOR PLAN APPROVED

PY181758 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 18 Apr 86

[Text] Brazil will not give in to pressure to change or reorient its computer sector policy. This statement was made by President Jose Sarney on 17 April, when he approved the national plan for the automation and computer sector. Sarney said that both as a citizen and as a politician, he will continue to support the plan.

[Begin Sarney recording] On this important occasion, I will reiterate something I have already stated before: I feel personally committed to the national computer sector policy. This plan has set the operational guidelines for the computer sector law. I participated in designing this policy and, now that I am the president, I cannot give in to pressures to change it or reorient it along a line that is contrary to Brazilian interests. [end recording]

The president added that the computer field is essential for all sectors.

AERONAUTICS PROJECT WITH ARGENTINA BEGINS

PY191751 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 18 Apr 86 p 2

[Text] Brasilia -- Brazil and Argentina are developing their first joint aeronautics project. The two countries are building the EMB-123, a plane for civil and military purposes that will replace the Bandeirantes built by Embaer [Brazilian Aeronautics Company]. Aeronautics Minister Otavio Moreira Lima has said that the first EMB-123's can be on the market in 1990.

Enthusiastic about the project, the minister presented it to the Air Force High Command on 17 April, and said that it can "ensure the steady development of the Brazilian industry." The minister also talked with reporters, to whom he emphasized the political importance of the project. The EMB-123 will promote integration between Argentina and Brazil, he said. "It is an exceptional project, not only from a political but also from an economic and technological viewpoint," the minister stressed. He also praised the Argentine technological potential.

The prototypes, to be designed and built over a 4-year period, will cost $292 million. This cost will be defrayed as follows: 1/3 by Argentina (its factory belongs to the Air Force), 1/3 by the Brazilian Aeronautics Ministry, and 1/3 by Embaer. According to the minister, 400 planes will be built under the project and the first units will be delivered in 1990. He added that Embaer and its Argentine counterpart will purchase dozens of EMB-123's and that the rest will be sold on the foreign market.

According to a note released by the Brazlian Aeronautics Ministry on 17 April, the plane will be pressurized, have room for 19 passengers, and its speed will be slightly slower than that of a jet. The EMB-123 will be a turboprop that will be suitable for several missions, such as air photogrammetry and light cargo transportation. The note stated that the new planes will replace the fleet of Bandeirantes, which by the time the EMB-123 is ready, will have been in operation for over 20 years. The new plane will be suitable for operating for regional routes and in "the world's smaller airports."

PANEL RECOMMENDS NUCLEAR PACT WITH ARGENTINA

PY181805 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazon Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 18 Apr 86

[Text] Brazil and Argentina may set up a mechanism for mutual inspection of their nuclear programs. This is one of the proposals that the Nuclear Program Evaluation Committee put forward to President Jose Sarney on 17 April. The propposal was justified on the grounds that Brazil and Argentina have made considerable progress in this field. The committee also concluded that Brazil must adopt a nuclear program to develop its own technology by the year 2000.

Committee President Jose Israel (Walker) has said that our hydroelectric potential will meet our energy demand only until 2010, at most.

[Begin (Walker) recording] The first conclusion the committee reached is that the Brazilian nuclear program is facing serious difficulties, despite the fact that it is vital for meeting our electric power demands over the next few decades. Based on Eletrobras [Brazilian Electric Power Companies, Inc] data, the committee concluded that our electric power demand will surpass our hydroelectric potential by 2005 or 2010, and that it will be necessary to count on electric power generated with coal or with nuclear energy. [end recording]

The committee also emphasized the need to nationalize the nuclear research program. To this end, the National Nuclear Energy Council will have to be divided into two sections: one to deal exclusively with [word indistinct] and development, and the other to take care of the regulations, supervision, and authorizations affecting the companies of the sector.

ARGENTINA, VENEZUELA BUY TUCANO PLANES

PY171245 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 15 Apr 86 p 5

[Excerpt] Vale do Paraiba -- Last week, the Argentine Government signed a contract with Brazil for the purchase of 44 Tucano T-27 military training aircraft. These planes are manufactured by the Brazilian Aeronautics Company (Embraer), in Sao Jose dos Campos, 97 km northwest of Sao Paulo. Venezuela recently bought 30 Tucano T-27 planes with the option for another 14. The final purchase documents will be signed in the next few days. The price of each Tucano is $1.2 million on the international market. President Jose Sarney started the negotiations with Argentina last November when he visited the country to dedicate the Tancredo Neves Bridge [at Igauzu, a town on Brazilian-Argentine border]. At that time, Argentine Air Force Chief of Staff Ernesto Crespo conveyed to President Sarney his interest in purchasing Tucano planes and AMX subsonic fighter-bombers. This was the beginning of the negotiations.

SOVIET EMBASSY INQUIRES ABOUT MISSING SCIENTIST

PY161505 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 15 Apr 86 p 6

[Text] Brasilia -- The Brazilian Foreign Ministry yesterday reported that the Soviet Embassy has again contacted the Brazilian Government regarding the disappearance of Soviet scientist Vladimir Halturin on 26 March in Belem, Parana State. The Federal Police search for the Soviet scientist has been unsuccessful so far.

FUNARO DISCUSSES REDUCED INTEREST RATES

PY191617 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 0300 GMT 19 Apr 86

[Text] Brazil will save $140 million in spread payments, which will amount to less than $350 million. This information was released by Finance Minister Dilson Funaro, who spoke at the Joaquim Nabuco Foundation in Recife. Funaro said that this year Brazil will pay a spread [preceding word in English] of only 1.25 percent, instead of 2.2 percent, which was the spread paid in 1985. The minister added that Brazil is the only country in the world that could negotiate such rates without being subjected to the traditional IMF programs. This is the result of the serious manner in which the government is handling its accounts and of the changes introduced through the economic package.

REACTION TO U.S. ATTACK ON LIBYA NOTED

Envoy to U.S. Comments

PY171313 Santiago Radio Chilean in Spanish 2300 GMT 17 Apr 86

[Text] Chilean Ambassador to Washington Hernan Felipe Errazuriz has categorically supported the U.S. attacks on Tripoli. The government, however, has not yet released an official statement on the matter. Reporter Jose Francisco Contreras will give further details. Jose Francisco, if the government has not yet released an opinion on the U.S.-Libyan conflict, how does Foreign Minister Jaime Del Valle explain the remarks made by Errazuriz?

[Begin recording] [Contreras] The foreign minister has not explained why the Chilean ambassador to Washington made those remarks. He said, however, that they were personal. In his remarks, Ambassador Errazuriz stated that the Libyan terrorists received a well-deserved punishment. He also expressed support for the U.S. decision to attack Tripoli, saying that the United States has made use of its legitimate right of self-defense. This is what the foreign minister said about the ambassador's remarks:

[Del Valle] The government has not released any official statement, and I can tell you that the Foreign Ministry has not yet released its opinion. I have told you that the Foreign Ministry is still studying all the information. Therefore, that is just the ambassador's personal opinion.

[Contreras] The foreign minister also held a meeting with an advisory group to coordinate the preparations for the next meeting with his Peruvian counterpart, Alan Wagner, on 25 May in Santiago. Del Valle stated that the pending points of the 1929 Treaty with Peru are a priority matter, and that for this reason they are studying the postponement of the meeting of the joint commission for cooperation and Peruvian-Chilean trade exchange. [end recording]

Foreign Ministry Statement

PY181810 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1740 GMT 18 Apr 86

[Text] The Foreign Ministry has reiterated that the government strongly rejects terrorism. Foreign Ministry spokesman Pablo Valdes has read an official statement on the events in the Mediterranean.

[Begin Valdes recording] In the face of the events in the Mediterranean, which have shaken the world, the Foreign Ministry hereby reiterates that the Chilean Government strongly rejects terrorism, which has claimed the lives of innocent people, jeopardizing the very foundations of society with its (?disguised) and cowardly actions. The events that have occurred show that it is imperative for the civilized nations of the world to urgently adopt and agree upon concrete and specific measures to fight and eliminate terrorism, so that they will not have to take stronger action. [end recording]

Temuco Youths Burn U.S. Flag

PY191852 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1650 GMT 19 Apr 86

[Text] Santiago, 19 Apr (EFE) -- Young Palestinians and university students have burned a U.S. flag and read statements in support of Libya in downtown Temuco, 700 km south of Santiago. It was reported today that after burning the flag, the demonstrators erected barricades and clashed with the Carabineros. No one was reported arrested. The demonstration was directed by Jorge Silhi, secretary of the Palestine information office in Chile. Silhi and other Palestine youths residing in Temuco, a city of 200,000 with a large Arab population, were waving their typical "kuffiyah." The demonstration was sponsored by the Arab youths of Temuco.

LA TERCERA DE LA HORA Editorial

PY181411 Santiago LA TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 16 Apr 86 p 38

[Editorial: "Conflict in the Mediterranean"]

[Text] It is quite true that the strengthening of the prestige and power of a country depends on the preservation of its credibility, hence the decision by President Reagan to carry out punitive action if Al-Qadhdhafi's regime attacked U.S. objectives or citizens. In attacking Tripoli, the U.S. President is running a calculated risk, because he has sufficient information about the reaction of the EEC, which had adopted a position rejecting such an action when visited by roving Ambassador Vernon Walters, and also about the attitude that would be adopted by the Arab countries. It should be recalled that during the Gulf of Sidra incident even pro-Western countries like Jordan emphasized through their media that a U.S. military action against any Arab country would be an outrage against the "Arab nation" as a whole.

Although at this stage in the events there is no clear picture of the situation, everything indicates that immediate peace appears as a pragmatic necessity for regional and international security. Long-term projections of the conflict are unpredictable, and they could easily end up favoring Al-Qadhdhafi's aspiration to play the role of a military messiah in the Islamic world. The "Al-Islam al-Sha'bi," or the Muslim fundamentalism emerging among impoverished Arabs, could possibly find in Al-Qadhdhafi a leader for their "jihad" or holy war, against the United States, Israel, and the moderate states ruled by conservative administrations known as the "Al-Islam al-Rasmi."

It is known that socialism, Marxism, liberalism, Western capitalism, and regional expressions like Nasserism and Ba'athism a adopted by the Islamic world have not provided satisfactory answers for the Arab countries, which remain dependent on Western technology for their development. Consequently, the Arab world is increasingly returning to its historical identity as represented by the Islamic political and religious system, in which Al-Qadhdhafi seems to want to play a role.

Also, a war escalation in the already overcharged Middle East atmosphere might force the Soviet Union to get involved in this conflict for the sole purpose of providing political help, according to Gorbachev's recent statements to the president of Algeria. Although the latest developments have awakened among Europeans the fear of Libyan retaliations, it is no less true that the international community's incapacity to react appropriately to terrorism is the fundamental factor that has prompted the United States to react as it did.

Therefore, besides persistently making appeals for peace after the U.S. action, the civilized nations must energetically react to the irrational terrorist violence unleashed by Al-Qadhdhafi.

470 STUDENTS ARRESTED DURING PROTESTS

PY181618 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 18 Apr 86

[Excerpt] The police have arrested 470 students during various incidents at several university facilities that were instigated by well-known professional political agitators. The final count released by the Carabineros indicates that those arrested, both men and women, are being held at several police stations. Most of them will be released after their backgrounds and addresses have been verified.

The police report says that 270 people were arrested at the Metropolitan University. They were taken to the 18th Carabineros station. The police also arrested 162 people in the area surrounding the Science School of the University of Chile on Macul and Grecia Avenues. Those arrested were taken to the 19th Carabineros station. In conclusion, the official police report says that 38 people were arrested when students were evicted from the Economic School.

BRIEFS

NEW AMBASSADOR TO KUWAIT -- Luis Larrain, former Chilean ambassador to Syria, has been appointed ambassador to Syria, has been appointed ambassador to Kuwait. A Foreign Ministry communique states that Ambassador Luis Larrain presented his credentials to Amir Jabir al-Ahmad as Sabah on 9 April. [Summary] [Santiago LA TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 12 Apr p 5 PY]

SINGAPORE AMBASSADOR PRESENTS CREDENTIALS -- During a ceremony at the La Moneda Palace yesterday, President Augusto Pinochet received the credentials of Ridzwan Dzafir, the first Singapore ambassador to Chile. [Excerpt] [Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 11 Apr p C3 PY]

PRC COMMISSION MEETS -- Colonel Ramon Valdes, the under secretary of foreign relations, has opened the Third Chilean-PRC Scientific and Technological Mixed Commission Meeting in Santiago as part of an agreement signed by the two countries 5 years ago. [Summary] [Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 18 Apr PY]

PRESIDENT: 'GOVERNMENT REPUDIATES TERRORISM'

PA192219 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1920 GMT 19 Apr 86

[Excerpts] Quito, 19 April (DPA) -- President Leon Febres Cordero today affirmed that terrorism "is a crime against humanity" and "an attack on peace," in what was the first comment from the Ecuadoran Government on the conflict between the United States and Libya. Febres Cordero said: "The Ecuadoran Government repudiates terrorism." He cut off the exchange with reporters by saying: "Our position is already well known."

ARMY COMMANDER REJECTS CONSPIRACY CHARGE

PA201343 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1230 GMT 20 Apr 86

[Text] According to information disseminated by Channel 10 yesterday, General Jorge Asanza, general commander of the Army, described the remarks by his counterpart, Laercio Almeida, as the result of personal resentment. Asanza announced that he will make declarations this week which will leave his position clear. He rejected Almeida's charge that he had plotted against the government and that he wanted to overthrow President Leon Febres Cordero. Almeida's remarks created anxiety among the citizens.

MILITARY COMMAND COMMUNIQUE DEFENDS CONSTITUTION

PA220126 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 0014 GMT 22 Apr 86

[Text] Quito, 21 Apr (REUTER) -- The top military command, including the chief of the Army, who was accused of conspiracy, signed a proclamation today stating that they will not permit the Constitution to be violated in Ecuador or the civilian government to be destabilized. The military communique addressed to the country and broadcast early tonight was issued after Army Commander Jorge Asanza was accused of conspiring against democracy and his removal was requested. Asanza signed the communique in his dual role as Army Commanding General and chief of the Armed Forces Joint Command, together with Jorge Andrade, Air Force commander, and Fernando Alfaro, Navy commander.

"The Armed Forces want to tell the country that it will not permit a break of the constitutional system or the destabilization of the government that is legally directing the Republic: We are and shall always be guardians of the law," the communique stated.

Last weekend the chief of military engineers, Laercio Almeida, said at a public military ceremony that Asanza had supported a partial movement of the troops 1 month ago destined to subvert the constitutional order, without changing his conduct, because subsequently he announced his intention to "overthrow the president."

For the chief of the opposition Christian Democratic Party, Wilfrido Lucero, the impasse shows that "President Leon Febres Cordero does not control the Armed Forces" following the counterinsurgency staged in March by Air Force Commander Frank Vargas Pazzos, who sought to overthrow the civilian government. Military sources indicated that General Almeida will be punished for publicly discussing an internal matter, while Defense Minister Medardo Salazar told newsmen that the charge was personal and had no bearing on the constitutional or judicial organizations of the Republic. He added that in the powerful land Army ranks "there is total tranquillity."

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MRTA CLAIMS BOMBING AT U.S. AMBASSADOR'S HOME

PY212229 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2114 GMT 21 Apr 86

[Text] Lima, 21 Apr (EFE) -- The Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA) today released a communique to the media claiming responsibility for this morning's attack against the U.S. ambassador's residence in Lima. The attack caused some damage. According to the communique the Justo Candia Commando parked a car loaded with 60 kg of dynamite, which the police estimated to be in the form of 30 sticks of dynamite, outside the residence. The explosion, which occurred 6 minutes after Lima's curfew ended, made a 2-meter hole in the wall surrounding the U.S. ambassador's residence and broke the windows of nearby houses.

According to the MRTA communique the attack "is an act of legitimate repudiation of the U.S. Government and of solidarity with the Libyan people." Attached to the communique was a letter addressed to the U.S. ambassador in Lima, David Jordan, saying that the attack "was aimed not at the American people" but at the administration of President Ronald Reagan. The letter was signed by the MRTA national leadership.

COSTA RICA'S ARIAS ARRIVES IN LIMA FOR VISIT

PY211711 Paris AFP in Spanish 0709 GMT 21 Apr 86

[Text] Lima, 21 Apr (AFP) -- Costa Rican Ambassador Edgar Sanchez has reported that Costa Rican President-elect Oscar Arias arrived in Lima at 2310 (0410 GMT) on 20 April for a 20-hour visit to Peru. On 21 April Arias will have breakfast with President Alan Garcia and Foreign Minister Allan Wagner at Government House. He will also meet with Senate President Luis Alberto Sanchez and the president of the Chamber of Deputies, Luis Negreiros, at the congressional building.

Arias has visited Brazil, Argentina, and Uruguay, the nations that along with Peru make up the Contadora Support Group, which is seeking peace in Central America. Arias at the last minute cancelled a short visit to Bolivia. Arias will depart Lima for Panama just after noon on 21 April.

BRIEFS

PRESIDENTIAL ADVISER APPOINTED -- Journalist Mario Castro Arenas was appointed adviser to the Presidency and took office on 25 March. [Summary] [Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 26 Mar p A4 PY]

COLOMBIAN DRUG RING DISMANTLED -- Vice Interior Minister Agustin Mantilla Campos has disclosed that the Civil Guard dismantled a Colombian drug ring based in the middle of the Peruvian Amazon Jungle. During the operation security forces seized 235 kg of drugs and some radio equipment. The operation was carried out in Alto Pampayacu, San Martin Department. [Summary] [Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 7 Apr p 9 PY]

FURTHER ON VISIT BY VENEZUELA'S LUSINCHI

Joint Statement Issued

PY160253 Paris AFP in Spanish 1839 GMT 15 Apr 86

[Text] Montevideo, 15 Apr (AFP) -- Uruguayan and Venezuelan Presidents Julio Maria Sanguinetti and Jaime Lusinchi reaffirmed here today absolute respect for international law and their desire to contribute to any effort aimed at putting an end to regional conflicts and encouraging detente and development.

In the joint declaration signed at the end of the 3-day visit that the Venezuelan chief executive paid to Uruguay, the two presidents agreed on rejecting all kinds of racial, sexual or religious discrimination and apartheid most especially, calling the latter a systematic violation of human rights. They emphasized that respect for these rights and for basic freedoms is an essential component of democracy and agreed to set up a system for consultation so as to help strengthen and expand democratic institutions in Latin America.

The two presidents said that developing countries are entitled to play their rightful role in the making of decisions on matters that affect them. With regard to the Central American crisis they stressed the imperative need for a stronger political will to achieve mutual understanding and a relaxation of regional tensions through dialogue and negotiations. Lusinchi and Sanguinetti urgently called upon all states with interests in and ties to Central American countries to help bring about understanding and to refrain from undertaking actions capable of thwarting this objective. Venezuela and Uruguay reiterated their commitment to support the Contadora Group and the countries backing it, and stated their willingness to participate in the Commission for Observation, Prevention and Inspection on the border between Costa Rica and Nicaragua. The two presidents also expressed their serious concern over the worldwide increase in terrorism.

Lusinchi and Sanguinetti went on to address the problem of America's foreign debt voicing their concern over the decline of the prices of raw materials for export, protectionism, the subsidiary policies and the high cost of servicing the foreign debt. They also called upon industrialized countries to provide suitable and fair solutions because the persistence of these problems worsen the situation in developing countries and jeopardizes their stability. The two presidents emphasized that the economies of Latin American countries have an urgent need for growth and stated that the current transfer of funds abroad must be reversed. The two presidents decided to establish a mechanism for consultation at the level of foreign ministries to discuss matters of common interest, which has been named the Uruguayan-Venezuelan Coordinating Commission. This commission will evaluate bilateral relations, and hold talks and negotiations in the fields of trade, finance, culture, agriculture, science, and technology.

Lusinchi Press Conference

PY170137 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0123 GMT 16 Apr 86

[By Alberto Pepe Leira]

[Text] Montevideo, 15 Apr (EFE) -- Venezuelan President Jaime Lusinchi today stated in Uruguay that the United States and the USSR sponsor the arms race in Central America and that the Contadora Group will have to make "the powers leave the region" in order to obtain peace.

In a press conference, he added that "the United States is intervening in Central America, but the USSR is too, and that no one can deny." He stressed that the Central American problem is global, that the two powers "are trying to establish their area of influence," and that "that is the truth as we see it."

Lusinchi denied that "the Contadora Group is a catalog of good intentions" and said that "we are the mediators of goodwill and can be nothing else; we have no means to take actions." He emphasized that in Central America "we can observe the same power play that we see in Afghanistan, in Africa, and in the Middle East. "Contadora has no leverage other than its goodwill."

Lusinchi recognized that "Latin American peoples have grown more conscious" in this regard, and there is concern also in Europe and inside the United States. "But," he stressed, "in many cases this concern is only verbal" and, referring to the European powers he said that "they are entirely unable to contribute with any concrete assistance; there is a lack of authenticity, a hypocrisy that really makes the situation more complicated."

Nevertheless, he voiced his optimism about the success of the Contadora Group (Colombia, Mexico, Venezuela, and Panama) and the Contadora Support Group (Argentina, Brazil, Peru, and Uruguay). In his opinion the reason for this success will be simple enough: fear will act as a balance between the superpowers. He also insisted that "the two superpowers will realize that there is no possibility of solving the Central American crisis through military intervention; it can only be done through political negotiations."

Later on, Lusinchi told the reporters that "a meeting of Latin American presidents might be convened," but added that "a presidential meeting cannot run the risk of failure." In his opinion, there are difficulties because "some are not acting in a sincere manner, and are looking at facts from their very particular point of view." As examples of this, he cited the Central American nations "and -- why not say it -- the attitude of certain countries that I will not name regarding the foreign debt."

The Venezuelan president answered a question about the role of his country in OPEC by saying that Venezuela will not support any oil embargo and that its position is very clear. During the long press conference Lusinchi also mentioned the bilateral agreements reached with Uruguayan President Julio Maria Sanguinetti and stressed that the agreements that have been signed will create an "unprecedented" flow of trade "between our two countries."

SANGUINETTI, ORTEGA DISCUSS CENTRAL AMERICA

PY190157 Paris AFP in Spanish 2124 GMT 18 Apr 86

[Text] Montevideo, 18 Apr (AFP) -- According to diplomatic sources in Montevideo today, a telephone conversation last weekend between Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega and his Uruguayan counterpart Julio Sanguinetti gave rise to hopes of the signing of the Contadora Peace Act on 6 June.

During the telephone conversation, Ortega told Sanguinetti of his desire to continue immediately the decisive negotiation phases over the Central American crisis, which reached a stalemate after the last meeting held by the mediating group composed of Colombia, Mexico, Panama, and Venezuela.

Sources disclosed that Ortega told Sanguinetti that Nicaragua would allegedly be willing to subject the proposal to a referendum but not sign it, a decision which the Uruguayan Government considered encouraging nevertheless. The sources added that the conversation held by the two chiefs of state represented, in the Uruguayan authorities' opinion, progress because Ortega showed signs of advancing from a position that he had taken, which had brought the negotiations to a standstill.

COMMUNIST PARTY OFFICE BOMBED IN MONTEVIDEO

PY171918 Paris AFP in Spanish 1332 GMT 17 Apr 86

[Text] Montevideo, 17 Apr (AFP) -- A medium-sized bomb went off early this morning at an office of the Uruguayan Communist Party (PCU) but caused no injuries, PCU spokesmen said. The PCU spokesmen said the bomb damaged the plaster of a PCU office located in the outskirts of Montevideo. No group has yet claimed responsibility for the attack. Today is the 14th anniversary of the death of eight PCU members in a confusing incident with Army and intelligence personnel.

'Command' Takes Responsibility

PY190108 Paris AFP in Spanish 2218 GMT 18 Apr 86

[Text] Montevideo, 18 Apr (AFP) -- In a telephone call to AFP's Montevideo office, a self-styled Captain Busconi Direct Action Command today claimed responsibility for the bomb attack against an office of the PCU. The medium-sized bomb exploded during the early morning hours of 18 April, and it destroyed the wall plaster of the office. There were no victims.

The call to AFP's office was made by an unidentified male, who said: Write down the message I am going to give you: The Captain Busconi Direct Action Command claims responsibility for the bomb that exploded at the PCU's 20th Precinct office. A local radio station received a similar call, but the message concluded with the words: Next time, the attack will be directed against the PCU's headquarters.

Army Captain Washington Busconi died on 17 April 1972 from wounds he received during a bloody incident in front of the office that was attacked on 18 April, in which eight communist militants also died.

Government Condemns Attack

PY180331 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 Apr 86

[Text] Interior Under Secretary Raul Lago told Radio Carve that the government repudiates and condemns the attack against an office of the PCU located on the corner of Agraciada and Valentin Gomez Streets.

[Begin Lagos recording] The first thing I have to say is these types of incidents cause a very deep displeasure and indignation, as they obviously have the intention of destabilizing the democratic process. Above all, we like to be very clear about this, that is the minister and myself, we are in the ministry to try to create an image, maybe [words indistinct] of the police. Above all we wish to highlight the [word indistinct] of the police. [End recording]

'JACKAL' TERRORIST REPORTEDLY TO SABOTAGE CANAL

PA211601 Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 21 Apr 86 p 1

[Special report for EL SIGLO by Boris Barrios]

[Text] Chicago, 20 April -- It was learned here yesterday from high political and military circles close to the White House that one of the most wanted terrorists of the world, Venezuelan citizen Carlos Ilich Ramirez, is in Panama hired to sabotage Panama Canal installations. The sources close to the White House reported that the terrorist also known as "the jackal" has been ordered by the Libyan Government of Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to operate in Panamanian territory and specifically against Panama Canal installations, whose security is jointly controlled by the Panamanian and U.S. Governments. The report adds that the Libyan Government considers the Panamanian territory where the canal is situated one of the strategic points controlled by the U.S. Government and therefore the main target of a terrorist attack against the United States.

The report on the whereabouts of the feared terrorist Carlos Ilich on Panamanian soil has prompted many Panamanians residing in the United States to call Panama, and especially U.S. citizens who have relatives working in the Panama Canal area. All this has created a collective hysteria among U.S. citizens with relatives in the Panama Canal area, the report added.

Reports coming from various circles close to the White House on the presence of the terrorist Carlos Ilich Ramirez in Panama were confirmed yesterday here in Panama City by people who said they have received telephone calls from Washington and Chicago from friends and relatives saying that the reports on Ilich Ramirez, son of a prominent Venezuelan industrialist, are circulating in the U.S. media.

EL SIGLO reporters have driven near the canal and noticed that security has been intensified, with everyone entering the canal area on a daily basis, even if with special passes, being carefully watched.

MONEY LAUNDERING REPORT WORRIES LOCAL BANKS

PA202234 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0000 GMT 20 Apr 86

[Text] The banking sector's atmosphere has been sensitive during the last few days following what has been defined as a campaign aimed at destroying the prestige of the Banco Cafetero, Inc., and Tower Bank International, Inc. The banks are mentioned as linked with the laundering of dollars which are a product of drug trafficking in the United States. The Panamanian bankers in general are extremely concerned because this type of news abroad affects the normal activities in Panama's financial center. Statements from the Banking Association and the commission headed by Mario de Diego are expected next week.

COSTA RICA

MONGE ON MEETING WITH U.S. AMBASSADOR HABIB

PA212316 San Jose Radic Impacto in Spanish 1830 GMT 21 Apr 86

[Excerpt] Philip Habib, U.S. roving ambassador for Central America, yesterday met privately with President Luis Alberto Monge. The president had this to say about the meeting:

[Begin recording] [Monge] As you know, ever since U.S. President Ronald Reagan decided to have a roving ambassador to deal with Central American problems, these ambassadors have visited us frequently to exchange views and information. These visits are very helpful because we keep them up to date on our stance or news, and we are, in turn, informed of the White House and the Department of State's positions. We talked about what will happen in the end with the Contadora document, reactions in the area to the Esquipulas meeting, the meeting of the vice presidents of the four countries which was held here, and the attendance of many presidents at our presidential inauguration. Ambassador Habib will be with the U.S. delegation. So, in these talks no agreements were reached. Instead, we exchanged views and brought each other up to date.

[Unidentified reporter] Was Ambassador Habib pleased over the [word indistinct] which the four democratic and pluralist countries are planning to have in order to achieve a Central American solution to area problems?

[Monge] Yes, he was very pleased. He conveyed President Reagan's personal view favoring an understanding among the four Central American democracies to draft a common strategy and face the existing economic and social problems, especially the problems regarding the drop in trade exchange among the four nations. [end recording]

EL SALVADOR

DUARTE CRITICIZES CALL FOR 24 APRIL STOPPAGE

PA212122 San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish 19 Apr 86 p 3

[Excerpts] President Duarte described as senseless and illogical a UNTS [National Unity of Salvadoran Workers] and Fenape [National Federation of Small Businesses] call to all its member organizations to stage a work stoppage from 0800 to 1200 on Thursday, 24 April. He added that the people will decide whether they will actually paralyze the country.

Upon being consulted by EL MUNDO about this move, Duarte said that the president is responsible to the entire nation, not to pressure groups. I think that it is logical that organizations voice their opinion; that they say whatever they wish; that is, we are living in a democracy, and they can freely voice their opinion; the state will analyze their opinions and take them into consideration. Duarte also said that such a measure is an incorrect notion of what freedom and government should be. I cannot do anything about this but the people will decide whether that sector will paralyze the country as a result of that absurd request, Duarte added.

Meanwhile, the Assembly ratified a permit to allow Duarte to leave the country on 8 May for Costa Rica and later Peru, Argentina, Uruguay, and Brazil and return on 24 May to participate in the president's summit in Esquipulas, Guatemala. The Assembly granted him that permit.

REBEL UNITS CLAIM 15 CASUALTIES IN USULUTAN

PA211453 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 Apr 86

[Excerpts] Our units inflicted 15 casualties on the puppet Army in southeastern El Salvador. Attention, this is the report from Usulutan.

At 0900 on Sunday, 20 April a guerrilla unit of the Rafael Arce Zablah guerrilla brigade's southern group staged the "Companeros Froilan and Edwin Forever Until Victory" operation. This operation was a successful annihilation ambush during which mines, rifles, and hand grenades were used against units of the ill-named Atonal Battalion and the criminal National Police. This ambush took place in Lomas de los Gonzalez canton, only 2 km from the city of Santiago de Maria in Usulutan Department. The clash lasted 30 minutes, after which part of the Army unit fled in total disarray.

Attention, attention: The initial reports sent to Radio Venceremos indicate that we inflicted 15 casualties on the troops of the ill-named Atonal Battalion and the National Police of Santiago de Maria. On our part, no problems were reported. With this action we sought to honor the memory of the revolutionary lives of our companeros Froilan and Edwin, who were outstanding revolutionaries until the last day of their lives. With this last report, the total of casualties inflicted on the enemy this week that has ended is 106.

GUATEMALA

ARMY CHIEF PLEDGES 'TOTAL' SUPPORT TO CEREZO

PA212101 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE 21 Apr 86 p 2

[Text] The Army will be in charge of security operations to be carried out in Esquipulas for the presidential summit, General Hector Alejandro Gramajo has announced. Gen Gramajo, chief of staff of national defense, made the announcement during the Military Police anniversary celebrations. The Armed Forces guarantee national security, and more so when a president is visiting our country, as he is entitled to be safeguarded by the Guatemalan Army.

All security forces will be working at Esquipulas, but all under the Army's orders to better coordinate all activities, the high-ranking officer said. As for the support of the Armed Forces to President Cerezo, it is total and absolute, as we must abide by the Constitution. As he has been elected by the people, we will support all of his decisions, and fully support him against any group that may oppose any of his measures in a disorderly fashion, Gramajo said.

VICE PRESIDENT CONFIRMS ESQUIPULAS SUMMIT IN MAY

PA212010 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 21 Apr 86 p 3

[Text] Vice President Roberto Carpio Nicolle has returned to the country and said that the summit of Central American and Panamanian presidents will definitely be held in late May in Esquipulas, Chiquimula. The vice president returned to the country following a 3-day trip to Costa Rica and met with the press at the Air Force Protocol Room.

He said that Nicaragua has confirmed it will attend the meeting. Furthermore, he added, a meeting of vice presidents is scheduled to be held on 2 and 3 May, in Guatemala City. The vice presidents of El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica will attend this meeting. This meeting is to discuss the Central American parliament.

CEREZO SPEAKS ON ECONOMIC REORGANIZATION PLAN

PA172300 Guatemala City Domestic Service in Spanish 0402 GMT 17 Apr 86

[Address to the nation by President Marco Vinicio Cerezo Arevalo; date not given -- live or recorded]

[Text] I am the president of the Republic; your friend the president who is here to discuss the current status of the concerted effort.

As you recall, we proposed an economic reorganization plan. We said that this plan aims to bring order to the national economy. To bring order means to correct some defects affecting our economy in the immediate past. First, they were constantly working against the interest of Guatemalans, the price of basic products for housewives, and the daily coexistence of families and the solution of their basic problems.

Second, do you remember there was great speculation about the dollar-quetzal exchange? That speculation led to a constant decrease in the value of the quetzal in relation to the dollar. This in turn led to an increase in prices of by-products and also brought what is called a recession to our national economy. Recession means a slowdown in economic activity and this affects an already great national economic problem: unemployment. There is a large number of unemployed Guatemalans; a large number of Guatemalans who do not have enough money to live on due to price increases. In addition, there are many other problems because there are no funds to invest in infrastructure and service programs for all of you. That is why there is no potable water, there is not enough electricity in various parts of the country; in sum, we face many problems.

Why is there such (?disorder) in the national economy? On the one hand, because some bad Guatemalans speculated at the expense of all others. They preferred to enrich themselves [words indistinct] even at the expense of all others; there is also a very high level of corruption. Of course, you know what corruption means. It means that public officials and some private businessmen agree to evade taxes, to become involved with contraband, and of course, to keep money belonging to the Guatemalan people instead of using it to benefit Guatemalans.

And finally, there is much inefficiency in the use of resources. For example, a great amount of resources is used in the Guatemalan capital, but resources are not used in the countryside to repair roads, upgrade the peasants' living conditions, and to upgrade public services such as potable water, health, and education. Now, all these problems must be corrected. However, my friends, as you know, 30 years of economic chaos cannot be corrected in 3 months of government. Despite this, the economic reorganization plan aims to bring order during this year. To start that plan, we requested 126 days. During my electoral campaign I told you that I needed at least 126 days in order to start government activities that would begin to solve the main problems of the Guatemalans. In those 126 days we did not constantly report to you on the activities of the government of the Republic, because reporting such information over the television and radio would have consumed money that we would like to spend on other things that would benefit the people. We do not want to make the mistakes of other governments that spent large sums of money on publicity to favor some of their friends but that in practice did not benefit the population in any way. Allow me to tell you what we have done in the past 3 months to allow you to learn about the many things we are doing to start the economic reorganization plan.

First, dear friends, as you have read in the press and heard over the radio, these have been many public demonstrations on the street making demands of the government and the private sector, or making general demands. These demonstrations have been carried out within the law with the absolute respect of the government of the Republic. [Sentence indistinct] We are living in democracy and liberty. The government is determined to ensure that these rights of the Guatemalans will be respected and exercised at all means.

Second, my dear friends, Guatemalans have noticed that the cost of living has greatly increased. That is not a problem caused by the current government. You must realize that this is the result of the economic disorder prevailing for many years. However, we are interested in correcting those economic disorders and curbing exaggerated price increases. That is why we sent to the Congress of the Republic a draft bill to establish what we call an economic crime. An economic crime is committed by a person who increases the prices of all goods subsidized by the government that are necessary for the nourishment and daily use of Guatemalans. If we set the price of corn, for example, and a businessman or government official sells it at a higher price, he is committing a crime. Those people will be punished by the government of the Republic. We are also contemplating a draft bill to be presented to the Congress to establish a ceiling on the revenues of people who trade with or use those goods that are basic to the population.

Why do we want to do this? We want to implement this measure this year only, because we are experiencing an economic emergency. At this moment, while we start the economic reorganization plan, we must prevent the excessive enrichment of some at the expense of the [words indistinct] of other Guatemalans. We are presenting these draft bills, not because we want to meddle in the commercial activity of the private sector, but because we are forced to defend the interest of the majority.

In addition, we have asked merchants and other people not to raise prices in an uncontrolled and illogical way. The people will have to take definitive measures, with their government's support, in order to control those prices, and we will have to be more drastic than we would like to be.

In the third place, friends, we have begun to reduce the government's public expenditures. How have we done this? We have not decreased activities in any way. We have not retained a single cent to benefit government officials. I should mention some isolated cases. In Guatel [Guatemalan Telecommunications Enterprise], for example, we will save 2 million quetzals this year in purchases of stationery alone. This stationery is for Guatel's everyday activities. We will increase Guatel's earnings. Last year this enterprise generated 100 million quetzals for the government in earnings and profits, and it will generate 15 million more quetzals for the government this year. Through the [words indistinct] percent alone, we will save about 2 million quetzals in the regular operation of the administration. Its revenues will increase, however, by 6 million quetzals.

Some enterprises were regarded as bankrupt, such as (?Plomerca), an enterprise handling maritime transportation in Guatemala. We received it with a 1 billion quetzal deficit. Now, we have lowered this deficit and saved more than (?1 million) quetzals, which will be used to improve the enterprises' activities. We have tripled the revenues of the customhouses and controlled the corruption and the contraband activities that normally occurred through these customhouses. This you know. Yet this is not enough. We will have to go on making changes in customhouses because contraband that affects the Guatemalans' interests continues to exist.

In addition, dear friends, and as I was telling you, we now have a reserve of $65 million for Guatemala's benefit. A few months ago we did not have a single cent, but had to pay $17 million that we did not have. In addition, we did not have money to pay for the [word indistinct] gasoline. All Guatemalans have realized that they no longer have to stand in line at gasoline stations and that we have not mentioned any shortage or lack of fuel because we have ensured a regular supply of fuel [words indistinct].

In addition, we have made progress in the solution of the security problem. We will initiate what we describe as a drive for the people's security next week. In this drive, we will be assisted by the Defense and Government Ministries, and the Guatemala City mayor's office and other similar offices. In cooperation with the people, the police will begin to reduce the number of daily current crimes against the Guatemalans' security and tranquillity. We will definitely have to take the Guatemalan Army, the national police, and all those government agencies into consideration because they can offer adequate protection so Guatemalan citizens can enjoy true security.

Yes, friends. Although we had offered to begin the [words indistinct] activities until after 126 days in order to implement the reorganization plan, the truth is that we have solved a great many problems. Last week, as you know, at least three great strikes occurred. Everybody thought a great problem existed in Guatemala and yet these strikes were all settled peacefully. The government made the right proposals and found the solutions. This was achieved through the understanding of the sectors affected by these problems. All this that happened last week shows that if the government has the answer and you Guatemalans have the understanding and the willingness to talk with the government, then we will not only solve the problems at hand, but we will bring about the development that will benefit all Guatemalans. My dear friends, (?the economic reorganization) will create more than 50,000 jobs directly stemming from state investments. The money exchange rate will be stabilized. This will permit the purchase of inputs for improved production and, of course and in addition to this, we will be able to obtain a sufficient amount of quetzals for us to invest in services infrastructures, particularly in the municipalities in the country's interior. You can also see the many efforts that we have made to assist small and medium-sized farmers. We are in the process of acquiring a large quantity of fertilizer that we will sell for a low price. This fertilizer, which was sold for 30 quetzals last year, will now be sold for 15 quetzals.

The city dwellers will perhaps wonder how this benefits them in Guatemala City. They are directly benefited because, if we lower the cost of inputs and fertilizers used by the peasants, then the price of the products that you will buy in the markets will also be lower. In addition, we plan to drastically lower the price of corn, beans, and rice. Later, the price of bread will also be lowered. How will we do this? We will import corn because we were left almost without a single pound of corn. We will sell this corn at a price that the people can pay, between 15 and 18 quetzals at the various (?markets) in Guatemala. This corn now sells for 28 or 30 quetzals per quintal and 28 or 30 cents a pound.

Guatemalans, we want to work for you. However, we keep telling you, my dear friends, that the only thing we can do do is create miracles. What we can do we have been doing. We have the capacity and the determination and, thank God, we rely on the Guatemalan's people's support and understanding. Progress has been made toward an agreement. I must admit that in the trade unions and those in charge of private enterprises, we have encountered willingness for dialogue.

If, in the course of this week, the opinion of other political parties can be considered, we will be able to present to the Congress of the Republic the bills that will allow us to implement the economic reorganization plan so that by the middle and the end of this year Guatemalans can see that this is truly a government of the people, for the people, and by the people. Let's bear in mind that time is a fundamental factor. If we cannot do the things ahead of time, we should in practice....[changes thought] To build a house, one must have bricks. To have a corn plant, one must plant seeds and work hard. Thus, my dear friends, have trust and be calm. (?Soon) you will begin to see the effects of the work that the people's government does for the good of the people. Thank you very much for your understanding and support. We will continue to discuss with you people the problems that all of us must solve. Good night.

Comments on Plan, Libya

PA181507 Guatemala City Radio Television Guatemala in Spanish 0400 GMT 17 Apr 86

[Text] President Vinicio Cerezo said today that his government has managed to reconcile the interests of various sectors in relation to the economic reorganization plan his government is trying to implement. However, he admitted, there are still some disagreements on the tax issue. President Cerezo talked to newsmen this morning during a diplomatic ceremony held at the National Palace Banquet Hall, and they asked him about the economic reorganization bill.

[Begin recording] [Cerezo] We have been talking to various sectors. The government's commissions have met with industrialists and labor organization representatives to try to reach some agreement which will permit the implementation of the economic reorganization plan. Agreements have been reached on most issues and only the tax problem is still pending. The government is trying to obtain approximately 540 million quetzales to finance the social program. The private sector is insisting on a lower amount, about 340 million. We are trying to reach some agreement on the amount. I am sure we will reach an agreement, probably today. It has to be an amount which meets the government, the country and private sector's approval.

Regarding the labor sector, the critical issues were, in the first place, the need for the government to pass some bills to control the cost of living, and in second place, the wage policy. We are discussing these issues with private and labor sectors to establish a formula through which private and labor sectors can reach agreements on a minimum wage scale which will give private sector the opportunity to do something to improve the workers' living standard.

In relation to prices, you already know that the government has submitted a bill on prices and maximum profit to be made on sale of the family basket items, so as to prevent all form of speculation.

I hope that we can reach an agreement this week. We have received suggestions from political parties which we will try to incorporate into the economic reorganization plan. We want to give consideration to the proposals submitted by all sectors.

[Question] Is there any way to further reduce the exchange rate for exports [words indistinct]?

[Cerezo] We are planning to reduce it next year. It will be difficult to reduce it this year because although the quetzal has increased somewhat in value, approximately 50 cents, we still have to be cautious in what we do.

When I assumed the Presidency the country did not have one single penny. The monetary reserve was less than 17 million, and we still had to pay the oil bill. Now we have 65 million, but that is not enough, it is not at the optimum level we want. If everything turns out right, our currency will be worth twice as much, just as we are planning.

[Question] Do you have an estimate on the amount of oil sold? We haven't heard anything about the amount of dollars received from the sale of oil.

[Cerezo] I do not remember the exact amount, but the country's production was approximately 5,000 barrels daily. I think we can double our production in a short time. We have found some wells which are also producing 5,000 barrels daily. However, we do not know how long this will last. If it continues like that for the next 4 weeks then we can count on doubling our production by the end of the year.

[Question] The economic reorganization plan is a short-term plan. Does the government have a long-term plan to promote the country's economic development?

[Cerezo] Some of the policies to be implemented are outlined in the plan, which are mainly aimed at increasing domestic production, exporting a variety of products, maintaining costs at a reasonable level, obtaining the supplies we need, avoiding spending all of our money abroad, and balancing the budget with the tax reform we are going to implement. Perhaps by the end of next year we will be in a position to promote an agriculture industrial policy to increase our exports after we obtain better prices for our products. In general terms, this is what we are planning to do, in addition to the infrastructure investment policy. All this together should increase job opportunities and lessen inflation. One of the government's basic objectives is to improve Guatemalans' living conditions.

[Question] Concerning oil, you recently talked about an investigation and a dispute in Europe [words indistinct].

[Cerezo] The amount involved is not as much as was reported. The 100 million quetzals mentioned is a lottery [words indistinct]. The investigation is on the oil produced in the past and the amounts exported. There are two oil companies involved. When we are ready to take an action, we will go ahead. This could mean recovering some $200 million in cash, which could represent a substantial increase in our foreign currency reserves.

[Question indistinct]

Cerezo] It consists basically in reducing indirect taxes, which affect low and medium income sectors, and in increasing direct taxes. It also deals with a service tax system. Some of these services are provided by the state.

[Question] President Cerezo, what is the government's official position regarding the U.S.-Libyan conflict? Are we going to take security measures to protect U.S. enterprises as well as at the airport?

[Cerezo] These conflicts always require that we increase security measures. We are going to ask the people to bear with us, but we have to protect the people, especially after the rumors of a bomb in a plane. We would not like for Guatemala to be the target of terrorism, as other countries have been. We have to think about what we are going to do as a result of the action carried out by the United States. We are opposed to terrorism as a political instrument; it is irresponsible and unjust.

We are also highly concerned over any measures of force taken by a country, totally disregarding the mechanisms of international law. This could only increase the polarization of conflicts at international levels.

We are a peace-loving country. We prefer to solve our problems through understandings. We will set forth our position on this in due time. We will analyze the reasons President Reagan cited for making decision. Because of the threat of terrorism, we will have to take the necessary measures to protect Guatemalans from those who could bring instability and insecurity to our country. [end recording]

ARCHBISHOP SAYS CHURCH-GAM RELATIONS 'TENSE'

PA220331 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 0050 GMT 22 Apr 86

[Text] Msgr Prospero Penados del Barrio, archbishop of Guatemala City, has said that relations between the Mutual Support Group [GAM] and the Catholic Church became tense when the GAM occupied the Metropolitan Cathedral last year. Msgr Penados del Barrio said that it is impossible to speak to GAM leader Inez de Garcia, because in the midst of her grief she does not listen and only makes demands, ignoring the various positions that different people occupy in society.

In regard to the group's being denied permission to hold masses at the cathedral, Msgr Penados del Barrio said that the GAM has gone to the extreme of violent actions such as disobeying presidential orders not to occupy seats at the National Palace to demonstrate. The group's president, Inez de Garica, furthermore, made exaggerated statements in Europe regarding the violation of human rights in Guatemala, because human rights are violated not only in Guatemala but throughout the world. Msgr Penados del Barrio said finally that he understands the grief and suffering of the missing people's relatives, but he feels that investigation will not yield positive results.

ECONOMY MINISTER, GROUP RETURN FROM TAIWAN

PA170318 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 0400 GMT 16 Apr 86

[Text] Economic Minister Lizardo Sosa has returned from the Republic of China, accompanied by a group of Guatemalan industrialists. Sosa talks about what they achieved during their visit to the Republic of China:

[Begin recording] The Foreign Ministry of the Republic of China early in February invited us to visit the Republic of China, and the Guatemalan Government accepted. I was given the honor of heading a delegation of approximately 50 Guatemalan industrialists, who decided to make the trip to find out the possibilities of buying machinery at reasonable prices for their industrial installations. Some got what they were looking for, and others are still negotiating the purchase of the machinery in which they are interested. [end recording]

The visit to the Republic of China served to strengthen commercial relations and negotiate agreements, Economy Minister Sosa said.

[Begin recording] This was definitely a positive trip to strengthen our commercial relations with the Republic of China.

We were able to hold talks in which we told the Republic of China's authorities of the Guatemalan Government's interest to increase our relations. We also discussed the possibility of receiving financial aid from the Republic of China and of increasing social and cultural relations. It was definitely a very positive trip for our diplomatic relations with that country. We were welcomed by the prime minister and three cabinet ministers. We have good reason to feel optimistic, when foreign powers show such unusual interest to improve relations with the new Guatemalan Government. [end recording]

HONDURAS

COMMENT ON U.S. AID TO CONTRAS, PEACE SOLUTION

PA180020 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1130 GMT 17 Apr 86

["Current Issues" commentary]

[Text] Good morning friends. Today could be a decisive day for the U.S. foreign policy in Central America, because the House of Representatives is voting on the aid for the Nicaraguan armed opposition. The matter should have been discussed yesterday, but the voting was postponed until today. The finesse of U.S. politicians has been evident in this controversial decision which has met the rejection of the House and the Senate several times, although the latter finally gave its approval after learning of the incursion of the EPS in Honduran territory in March.

President Reagan has repeatedly insisted on this matter, gaining more sympathizers with his decision. However, in a skillful move the Democrats merged in a single package the $100-million aid for the anti-Sandinists with a law on expenditures which the U.S. president had threatened to veto. After this high strategy, Reagan cannot veto this law because then he would be affecting the $100 million that he requested, which is now linked with another bill. President Reagan thinks that if this money is approved, he will have an instrument with which to pressure the Managua regime to switch to the democratic path it promised but did not follow.

Meanwhile, we have seen the efforts of the Contadora Group as a peace instrument. The long obstacle course begun in 1983 by this group of nations seems to be reaching an end, but it is still hard to see who will reach the finish line in favor of peace.

However, at this stage, one thing is clear in this wave of intense pressure affecting our regions: War can only postpone peace. The most recent meeting held in Panama early in April, clearly showed the game of clashing interests in the region and, in addition, the disposition of certain governments such as those of Colombia, Panama, and Venezuela, not to continue risking their prestige in an effort in which the key factors are beyond their control.

The results of the meeting, thoroughly reported by the Honduran Foreign Secretariat through the dispatches of international news agencies, contrasted with the significant presence of 13 foreign ministers of Latin America at the negotiating table. It is a fact that it has never been more evident that the OAS has turned into a large bureaucratic apparatus without the political and executive capacity to be in line with the current situation of our continent.

In Panama, the foreign ministers of the Contadora and the Support Groups were exceptional witnesses of how Nicaragua is betting in favor of war instead of peace, perhaps forgetting that common sense is the basic foundation for diplomacy.

Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto Brockman repeated that his country cannot put a limit on its arms buildup because its main adversary is the United States, which he blamed for the covert war that Nicaragua has been facing since 1981.

The Sandinists' reasoning cannot be taken lightly because it involves a couple of premises that concern all of Central America. The first Sandinist premise is that war is unavoidable and that the only thing that is being discussed is when it will start. The second premise, which is closely related to the other, is that the Central American conflict is military and not political, thus forgetting the basic lesson that war is a prolongation of politics. In this regard, Nicaragua, which considers itself the offended state, has chosen the wrong site and weapons for the duel. It is behaving as if we were in feudal times, forgetting that in contemporary times the small countries have the right to survive protected, not by force, but by international law.

The boldness with which Sandinists seized power in 1979 seems to have disappeared and once again, militarism carries more weight than civility in the balance of power. We are interested in this matter because we are convinced that Central Americans were born with the same historical identity and that it is impossible to break the area into pieces. The economic and social crisis being experienced by the isthmus can be successfully faced if there is a common effort and for this, there must be conditions to overcome and underdevelopment we were not born with.

Nicaragua must clearly understand that peace is the best thing for the Central American people. Regardless of how many weapons the Sandinists may have, they would be unable to resist a direct U.S. military intervention. However, the price of such a lesson could be fire throughout Central America.

Contrary to what many revolutionaries may think, Honduras is not Lebanon, Nicaragua is not Vietnam, and Central America is not Southeast Asia, neither politically nor geographically speaking. For this reason, the result of a war in our region would be different. Sandinism should understand this before rejecting civilized peace offers.

In Central America there is contiguity among the countries and continuous regional problems. This is why it is suitable to ask ourselves: What price will Honduras have to pay if the warmongering option prevails over the pacifist alternative? The answer will be determined by what we are: a poor country with many material limitations, with a foreign debt that has a grip on us, with 60 percent of the population in a state of poverty, with decreasing natural resources, and with human resources that are languishing for lack of education and food.

To be truthful, our Army is prepared to defend our territorial sovereignty, but not to turn itself into an expeditionary force that would have the backing of a war economy. We even import the bullets we use and the ammunition is paid in dollars -- the same dollars we need to import the raw material necessary for promoting the industrial sector.

If there is a large-scale conflict, the expansive wave would destabilize every single institution in Central America. If would be worse than the worst earthquake in our history because ideological wars end only when ideology dies crushed by the weight of a huge material and political force that would open a door to a new way of life with basis on different material grounds. If there is a war, there will be no winner. Whoever happens to come out of it on his feet will have only the privilege that Napoleon had after Waterloo: to view a territory planted with death.

Nicaragua must rectify its path. It must look for more just and well-balanced forms of coexistence, both domestically and internationally. The Sandinists, in the height of power -- where there is a strange loneliness -- must realize that their people may someday think that in history some carry out the revolutions, but others administer them.

Contadora must not die because there could be death throughout Central America, but if Nicaragua does not come to its senses, there is the decision to be adopted today in the U.S. House of Representatives. This decision is being made at the psychological moment when the terrorist threat from the Libya of Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, who has been punished for having ordered from Tripoli the bombing of airplanes and discotheque, thus creating innocent victims. We don't know the conditions under which the $100 million for those Reagan calls Nicaraguan freedom fighters will be approved, but it is obvious that in the United States there is the firm decision to stop international terrorism.

If the punishment decision was adopted for a strategic area of the Mediterranean Sea, where European and Arab disapproval was to be expected, we have no doubt that any other forces of disturbance will be neutralized, especially if it appears on American territory, in the so-called backyard of the United States. An error is being made by looking down on the peace mechanisms that have been functioning for the past 3 years.

U.S. 'ADVERSE' TO AREA PRESIDENTIAL SUMMIT

PA180413 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 17 Apr 86 p 6

[Editorial: "The Presidential 'Summit' and the Region's Present Situation"]

[Text] Come hell or high water, the Central American presidents will meet in Esquipulas (Guatemala) to analyze the regional situation and seek a change toward economic reintegration, in keeping with the isthmus' new reality. The "summit" of isthmian presidents should not be considered untimely. On the contrary, under the present circumstances, a joint meeting of the men who hold the fate of this conflictive part of America in their hands is more than necessary. Nevertheless, from the first time this initiative was mentioned, the U.S. Government seemed adverse to the project and there were even maneuvers to make it fail. President Duarte remained true to his word of attending the conclave, the same as Honduran President Azcona Hoyo, who stood ready in case the meeting was to be held in San Pedro Sula. What is, then, the U.S. concern over the Esquipulas "summit"? Probably the desire to keep Nicaragua completely isolated from the regional political context, as part of the siege to topple the Sandinist regime. However, Central America's interests include Nicaragua of course, and all effective solutions must be the product of an exchange of opinions and united interests, especially in the current situation in which on one hand we clearly see the spectre of a generalized war, and on the other we see the unquestionable need for a completion of the Central American peace and development document that the Contadora Group and the Lima Group are preparing.

The evolution of the controversial $100 million in military aid for the "contras" at the U.S. Congress, the punitive U.S. actions in Libya -- which have unleashed an intense international reaction -- and the evolution of Central American public opinion, especially Honduras' in regard to U.S. policy in our region, makes the conversation among the presidents even more appropriate, within a much more favorable framework than existed when they met on the occasion of President Cerezo's inauguration.

Of course we must not expect finished solutions to emerge from the meeting or that the proposal to create the Central American parliament will be easily implemented.

Most important at this time are issues that apply to Contadora and issues related to the discussions on "the region's political and joint security problems."

Of the eight-point agenda published, four points referred to regional economic integration and the foreign debt. We must not fail to take advantage of the occasion to discuss Central America's economic and social integration.

However, it is obvious that conditions are not adequate for the implementation of this integration so long as the East-West conflict continues in our territory and, consequently the entire scheme of Central American life is distorted in a skillful manner.

Central American integration, then, will result from peace and understanding among the governments and peoples of this region. The war, logically, will remove the possibility of integration, which for a long time has been the only true solution for our economic and social problems.

The meeting of Central American presidents in Esquipulas is therefore amply justified and will depend on the presidents' patriotism and intelligence and their perception of our countries' future.

This event must not be inscribed, like many others of this type, in the annals of superficiality and escapism.

'AZCONIST' CRITICIZES CURRENT ADMINISTRATION

PA171741 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1130 GMT 16 Apr 86

[Excerpt] The current administration continues to be the target of criticism. Another deputy -- others have already criticized it, including Ramon de Jesus Avillon and Mario Ramon Lopez -- said that Jose Azcona's administration lacks coordination.

Honduras depends on the United States politically and militarily, Edmond L. Bogran, deputy of the ALIPO [Peoples Liberal alliance] or Azconist coalition, has said.

Deputy Bogran is unhappy with the Azcona administration's performance because the government has not concretely defined its action plan, and its work is uncoordinated.

The ALIPO leader said he expects more from the current government concerning its rapport with the people.

Bogran acknowledged that the current relations between Honduras and the United States are unique because this country is economically dependent and the current situation in Central America makes us dependent politically and militarily. We cannot elude reality. It is absurd to believe that a law will change this state of affairs.

However, the government can formulate its own, independent policy to allow Honduras to gradually make progress regarding our self-determination, the prestigious political figure and prominent banker explained.

NICARAGUA

FURTHER ORTEGA CONTADORA, U.S. 'AGGRESSION' REMARKS

PA220347 Managua International Service in Spanish 0015 GMT 22 Apr 86

[Text] Over the weekend, President and Commander of the Revolution Daniel Ortega Saavedra denounced the existence of U.S. plans to blame this Central American country for anything that may happen to U.S. soldiers in Honduras and to use this pretext to step up its aggression. The Nicaraguan head of state raised the charge during a meeting with labor leaders to mark 1 May, International Workers Day. Here is an excerpt of Ortega's statements:

[Begin recording] You know the situation. We do not have to repeat it. You know perfectly well the causes of this situation, of the crisis that all Latin American countries are experiencing. Naturally, this crisis also affects Nicaragua. However, Nicaragua is also enduring aggression.

[You know] about all of the resources we have to divert to it, such as the men, in the first place, who could be producing but who have to wield a rifle instead. ANd there are also the material resources that have to be devoted to the military confrontation with the U.S. Government.

This is a war between the United States and Nicaragua. This is an overt war by the United States against Nicaragua. The only thing lacking is a formal declaration of war against us by the United States, yes, a note from the United States publicly declaring war on us. This is all that is required, because in actual fact the U.S. President is engaged in an open war against Nicaragua.

Of course, we [word indistinct] the aggression by the U.S. President, confronting it, defeating the aggression, and also facing the risk of Yankee intervention in a struggle for peace. We are struggling for peace. By defending the revolution with rifles we are struggling for peace. By being willing to achieve a peaceful solution, as proposed by the member countries of the Contadora Group and of the Lima group, we are struggling for peace.

Our latest position, [words indistinct] we announced with regard to this entire negotiation process is not a capricious position. It is not an adventuresome or irresponsible position. Nicaragua's position is the same as that of Latin America, the same position held by Contadora. (?By doing so) we are but reminding Contadora of its position because in the proposal it announced in Venezuela in January of this year, Contadora talked of simultaneous actions to be able to achieve peace in Central America and the signing of the document is but part of this process of simultaneous actions.

In the latest letter we received from President Alan Garcia and President Sanguinetti of Peru and Uruguay, respectively, they [word indistinct], they note that the question is to continue the discussion of the document but that the signing and implementation of the document will be determined by the security that the Central American countries have or have (?attained)? Therefore, if there is no security for a Central American country like Nicaragua, if there are threats hanging over a Central American country like Nicaragua, there is no question that the document cannot be signed and cannot be implemented because, the way the document has been proposed, the way it is submitted, it contains a commitment that those actions will be automatically implemented upon its signing.

Therefore, our proposal is logical because, in order to implement the series of actions which the counties signing the document undertake to comply with, peace must necessarily exist already in Central America. If there is no peace in Central America the document cannot be implemented and therefore the document cannot be even signed.

Now then, we are willing to sign the document and that is why we remain firm and insist on the pending points because these are sensitive pending points. They have to be discussed and we have to reach agreement on them. Nicaragua has an on-going war and the points that have to be discussed have to do with military matters. Nicaragua is facing a war and it has to repel that war by giving rifles to the workers, the peasants, the laborers, the people. We lack rifles and even in the war zone itself, there are thousands of peasants who are asking us for rifles. However, we do not have enough rifles to give to all peasants and workers.

The outlook in this war is for a bigger confrontation with the United States. The outlook is not for peace. We would like the outlook to be for peace, but it is not, and it does not depend on Nicaragua. It depends on the U.S. Government. The United States has an adventuristic government. It is an overbearing government that is killing children here in Nicaragua. The Reagan government is stained with the blood of Nicaraguan children. And they have now gone to Libya to murder children, too, on the grounds that they are fighting terrorism. (?Such) is the new logic, the deformation, the aberration by the U.S. President. The heroic U.S. pilots and the heroic President Reagan have gone to fight terrorism by murdering children in Libya. What way of fighting terrorism!

And they are defending democracy here in Nicaragua. Reagan is murdering children here in Nicaragua to defend democracy. So as to get support for his policy [words indistinct] the famous $100 million. It is not so much the amount that Reagan is seeking because he can send it to the merceneries one way or the other. What he is looking for is the support of the entire U.S. Congress for his policy of terrorism against Nicaragua. That is what he is looking for. And he is talking about sending military advisers. He has already sent military advisers. We denounced [words indistinct] the explanation they have given to the U.S. press is that these are not military advisers but CIA agents who provide liaison and coordination with the contras, with the activities at the contras' camps. The truth is that they are agents of the U.S. Government -- adviser -- who are there supporting the contras. And more and more forces of the so-called Green Berets are arriving to support the contras.

And Reagan threatens Nicaragua every day. Libya has now been bombed and they have set up a full-fledge campaign to try to sell to the U.S. people the idea that Nicaragua is promoting terrorist actions. Once they sell the idea that Nicaragua promotes terrorist actions they will have the conditions [words indistinct] they talk that there is a whole operation has been prepared in Nicaragua -- to go kill U.S. soldiers in Honduras. These are but campaigns aimed at creating a climate against Nicaragua. [end recording]

OFFICIAL COMMENTS ON CASUALTIES, CONTRA AID FUNDS

PA191445 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 18 Apr 86 p 7

[Text] While giving his annual report in February of this year, President Daniel Ortega Saavedra disclosed that the number of victims resulting from the unjust war imposed on us by the U.S. Government is 12,332, of which 3,999 are dead, 4,542 injured, and 3,191 kidnapped. [figures as published]

The details were supplied by Reinaldo Antonio Tefel V., Nicaraguan Social Security and Welfare Institute minister director, who added that the damage caused by the mercenary counterrevolution up to December 1985 was estimated at $2 billion. Tefel's report has to do with the immoral discussion of the $100 million that imperialism is trying to obtain as "humanitarian aid" [as published] for the counterrevolutionaries. Tefel explained that the war situation has contributed to the displacement of 250,000 Nicaraguan; the number of pensions being paid as a result of this dirty war is 19,798.

The terrorist and barbaric war promoted by Reagan and his henchmen has left in Nicaragua 9,124 orphans; 1,841 disabled persons; 5,899 mothers who have lost their sons, and 2,934 widows. Tefel said that with the $100 million that will be given to the mercenaries -- who have only brought mourning and death to the Nicaraguan people -- we could build 4,000 Rural Children's Services (SIR) to take care of 400,000 children; we could also build 1,700 lunchrooms to feed 340,000 children, and 466 Child Development Centers (CDI), to take care of 66,900 children. This would mean being able to give special attention to 806,900 children in the country. The number of children under the age of 15 in the rural population in Nicaragua who are taken case of by the Social Security and Welfare Institute is approximately 739,000, Tefel indicated. All this means that we could take better care of these children if we had the $100 million that will be given to the mercenaries.

COSEP LEADER VIEWS HONDURAN STATEMENTS ON CONTRAS

PA212037 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1809 GMT 21 Apr 86

[By Juan Ramon Rojas]

[Excerpts] San Jose, Costa Rica, 21 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- Enrique Bolanos, the top Nicaraguan private enterprise leader, has justified the presence of anti-Sandinists in Honduran territory and said that "it would be actually criminal" to expel them from that country.

Bolanos, who is the president of the Higher Council of Private Enterprise (COSEP), the top Nicaraguan business organization, told the press in San Jose that he backed some of the statement made by Carlos Orbin Montoya, the president of the Honduran Congress, who said in San Jose over the weekend that his country will tolerate the contra groups that are fighting against the Sandinist government.

Bolanos said the Honduran Government "has no choice" but to accept the presence of the anti-Sandinist groups in its territory, although this does not mean that it encourages them, because "it would actually be criminal to send them back to Nicaragua."

Bolanos added that this is not a change on the part of the Honduran Government, just a new phase, the phase of official acknowledgment.

According to Bolanos, that acknowledgment occurs in view of the avalanche of Nicaraguans who cross the border daily in search of other ways of struggle, "faced with the failure of peaceful means," but "hoping to return to Nicaragua soon."

Bolanos said that out of respect for international treaties and "to remain within a certain legality," Honduras had denied the presence of the contras in its territory, but that that position is now difficult to sustain.

Asked whether the Honduran acknowledgment would further erode peace in Central America, Bolanos replied that peace is not in itself the goal of the Central American people.

"Everybody speaks of the Central American war, but no Central American country is at war with another country. There is civil war in Nicaragua and El Salvador," Bolanos pointed out.

Bolanos believes that the only way to achieve the stabilization and pacification of the area is for the six Central American countries, including Panama, to have the same political system whether it be "communist or democractic."

GOVERNMENT RELEASES HONDURAN SAILORS TO CONSUL

PA181247 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 18 Apr 86

[Text] The Nicaraguan Government today released through the Foreign Ministry 12 Honduran sailors who were arrested some days ago while fishing in Nicaraguan waters.

The repatriation of the Honduran citizens was carried out during a ceremony held at the consulate, which is located at Km 14, Southern Highway; they were received by the consul, Dr Herminio Pinedo, who thanked the Nicaraguan Government for its action and said that this will contribute to improving bilateral relations between Honduras and Nicaragua.

The delivery of these prisoners was carried out by Companero Oscar Ramon Tellez, director of the Central America and Mexico Department at the Foreign Ministry. Ricardo Miranda, a Honduran sailor, expressed his thanks for the good treatment received from the Nicaraguan authorities and pointed out that he felt happy because he was returning to his homeland and knew he would meet his relatives.

CASTRO SPEECH MARKS PLAYA GIRON ANNIVERSARY

FL200310 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0038 GMT 20 Apr 86

[Speech by President Fidel Castro at a ceremony commemorating the 25th anniversary of the Playa Giron victory and the proclamation of socialism at Havana's Karl Marx Theater -- live]

[Text] Distinguished guests, family members of the combatants who fell at Giron, Giron veterans, comrades:

When the Giron events occurred, approximately half of the current population of our country had not yet been born. Many who are now adults were children, then but millions of adults remember well the events that were intensely lived by our people.

During these past few days, our press has spoken extensively on all that occurred during those days. Even though there are many testimonials, I sense that an exact, precise, and global account of that battle has not yet been written. Sometimes, we confuse dates from what we remember even though it only involved 3 days. Things that happened on the 19th [of April 1961] are presented as occurring on the 18th. Some events that occurred on the 20th; later events, are presented as occurring on the 19th and it continues. There is no global, precise version of all the events. Possibly, some historian or a group of historians, now, after 25 years, will take advantage of the great quantity of written accounts and question those who participated in the battle and will reconstruct, with a maximum amount of precision, all that occurred.

The international press has also spoken extensively about these events during the past few days because it is the 25th anniversary. Some cable services have said that certain participants of those events have not yet recovered from that defeat.

The Giron aggression had its antecedents. On 11 December 1959, the CIA chief proposed to the U.S. Government a plan to destroy the revolution. As early as 17 March 1960, President Eisenhower ordered the organization of and preparations for the aggression. Naturally, we did not know that at the time. We knew it later when the authors and participants of the event themselves recounted the criminal act.

Before Giron they had carried out an entire destabilization program, acts of sabotage, assassination plans, organization of armed bands, unloading of explosive weapons or landing those explosive weapons by parachute. Before Giron, the imperialists had organized numerous groups of bandits in Escambray. Practically all of the provinces in Cuba had armed groups organized by the CIA. There were hundreds of counterrevolutionary groups in the country. Each time three or four met or even two or three counterrevolutionaries, they made an organization. That was the CIA's style; promote many organizations even though some were stronger than others and they used these groups in their activities.

Two days before the bombing, the El Encanto store was burned in an act of sabotage where comrade worker Fe del Valle died. On the 15th, they launched the aerial attack. The night before -- the attack was at dawn -- but the previous night, they were attempting to carry out a landing at the eastern province in the Baracoa region. They launched the invasion on the 17th.

In explaining the imperialists' defeat in one way or another, much has been written by journalists, members of the U.S. Government, CIA members, and U.S. politicians. Nevertheless, the events are very clear to us. The mercenary invasion did not surprise the country. It did not take us by surprise despite the fact that all the cable agencies -- and here you have a good example of the seriousness of the transnational's news information system -- received instructions from the U.S. President not to speak or publish any news related to the invasion plans which was now known to many people. The principal newspapers, including THE NEW YORK TIMES, which betrayed its fame as an objective newspaper, received instructions not to divulge any information on the invasion plans.

Thus, no one could learn from the newspapers or the press services what was going to happen; but through other means, because of past events, because the revolutionaries had learned to guess what the enemy was planning to do; we were able to decide that the attack was imminent. We cannot say that we had the exact date and time, but we had that gut feeling.

During previous weeks we had worked very hard. The efforts made in organization and training of personnel were enormous. Hundreds of thousands of persons were organized, trained, and armed in just a few weeks. The arms continued to arrive and arrived very opportunely. They arrived a few weeks prior to the invasion. A large number of artillery pieces arrived: ground artillery, antiaircraft artillery, antitank artillery, also tanks and self-propelled heavy artillery. We were able to receive hundreds of thousands of arms.

Most of the arms were coming from socialist countries. Our attempt to obtain arms from Western countries sold us the ammunition but refused to sell us the guns. One of the ships bringing arms, Le Coubre, was sabotaged. Dozens of workers and soldiers were killed in that explosion, an act of the CIA. Since then, no other ship which has brought arms has exploded. Some thousands of ships have brought arms since then and not one of them has had any problems. Only a ship loaded in a western European port could be sabotaged. There the CIA was able to sabotage it very easily. The sabotage consisted of a fuse between boxes, so when one was picked up it blew up.

We conducted an investigation and decided the explosion could not occur by chance. Hand grenades and other ammunition in that cargo were dropped from aircraft at different heights and none blew up. It was clear that it was a sabotage organized outside our country in such a way to cause two explosions. That is what happened. After the first explosion, a few minutes later when the soldiers and workers were helping those who had been injured, the second explosion went off, making that sabotage a very bloody one.

That ammunition was not stored very long. The process of organizing battalions was accelerated. At that time, the majority of our Armed Forces was organized into battalions. We called them heavy battalions or light battalions referring to the type of weapons. An entire program forming cadres was developed. An accelerated program for training of personnel was developed because there was a small number of technicians and specialists, Soviet and Czechoslovak. However, that program for training personnel to use all those weapons was long. The first batteries were expected to be ready in several months. We had weapons for hundreds of batteries. The circumstances were special. The situation was an emergency.

In the same camps where the first batteries were training, we spoke with the comrades and told them, "what you learn during the day, you have to teach to others in the afternoon." We grouped thousands and thousands of members to form artillery groups.

We selected volunteers from the different units already organized. Ciudad Libertad was converted into an enormous camp as will as other locations. In Mariel, La Cabana, and elsewhere, there were dozens of thousands of men in training during the weeks prior to the attack. That was fundamental. Not a moment was lost.

On the day of the attack, with little or no preparation, this allowed all the weapons to be manned and ready to use. In a short time, the impossible, a rigorous preparation of personnel, was accomplished and they knew how to use the weapons. The rest was a result of the heroism and good will of the workers, militia members, and soldiers. The tanks were newly arrived. The tank corps had barely 1 week of training. They knew a little about tanks. They learned how to drive the tanks that were left by the tyrants.

Measures were taken at the airports in case of a surprise attack. Anti-aircraft batteries were organized for protection. We had an improvised general staff in Havana City. That night we were on alert for a possible landing in the east. In the morning, airplanes were flying very low, practically on top of us and they were directly headed for Ciudad Libertad. Not 1 minute has passed, possible 1 1/2 minutes, from the time the low-flying planes passed until the attack on Ciudad Libertad began with rockets and machine guns.

We were able to appreciate the incredible speed with which the militia, who operated the antiaircraft battery, began to fire at the airplanes. Not even 20 seconds had passed from the time that the first shots began to the moment when the battery responded efficiently. This is how the first battles began, with a surprise attack, using airplanes with the insignia of our Armed Forces, our Air Force, the exact same insignia. The second we saw the airplanes pass we thought it was a little strange. We wondered where they had come from. We knew nothing about them. They were disguised enemy airplanes.

It was strange that they launched the attack 36 or 38 hours before the main strike. Maybe they thought they would deceive us when they tried to land on the night of 14-15 April around the Baracoa area. They were expected there. They had landed and had been there for a short while but they did not fool us when 200 men landed in Baracoa. We still did not know what they were going to do with the large mercenary force which was being trained in Guatemala. The whole world knew that. How would it be used? In small groups to try to have many fronts or would it be concentrated? We preferred they concentrate them because we could solve the problem faster. However, we had taken measures.

Months earlier we had cleaned up the Escambray. The number of outlaws had been reduced to less than 10 percent in that place with the participation of militiamen from the entire republic, but mainly from Havana. About 50,000 men participated in that cleaning-up operation. They were trained, hiked the mountains and obtained experience which later would be very useful in the Giron battles. But we had taken measures in case they decided to disperse that force in many groups. We had placed at least one squad in every possible coastal landing spot, in all possible landing places. We also considered the possibility they would attempt to create around Cuba another Taiwan. That, for example, they would want to take over what today is called the Isle of Youth -- previously known as Isle of Pines -- where as a matter of fact thousands of counterrevolutionaries were imprisoned because many of those outlaws captured at the Escambray were there. There were not too many places....[leaves thought unfinished] Many of those saboteurs, those counterrevolutionaries, were imprisoned there. We had to foresee the possibility that they would try to land there and free those counterrevolutionary prisoners, occupy a part of the national territory, and establish a provisional government.

We also had foreseen the possibility that they would land around the Trinidad area next to the Escambray and undoubtedly that area was among the places considered in their plans. But the large clean-up operation in the Escambray a few months earlier apparently made them change their minds, mainly because we had greatly strengthened the Isle of Youth. Thousands of combatants were entrenched there to make it impossible for the island to be occupied by a mercenary invasion. Measures were also taken in Trinidad. At the airport the coasts were considerably fortified so that the possibility that they could land there was removed. They were the ones who then had to solve the problem of where they would land if they decided to concentrate all the forces.

Thanks to the measures we had taken, the previous bombing did not destroy our planes. When the invasion took place on the 17th there were still more planes than pilots. There were around eight or ten planes. Those are the facts we have to point out, but there were only about seven pilots, no more, not many more. I remember that there were more planes than pilots left. The airports were reinforced. Some imperialist so-called strategic theoreticians have said that one of the reasons the defeat took place was that the second bombing was not conducted in San Antonio to destroy the planes we had left. But we had foreseen that also.

Airports were reinforced with antiaircraft defense, the planes were protected. But also at dawn on the 17th, once the landings in the area of Playa Larga and Giron were confirmed, before dawn, before dawn [Castro repeats himself] the planes were already in the air flyig toward the areas of Playa Larga and Giron. They would not find any grounded planes because we foresaw the possibility that our small Air Force bases and our meager Air Force would be attacked again.

How did we realize that the news we got around 2 in the morning, when we were resting or were trying to rest a few hours after not having slept for days, we were awakened and told that a landing was taking place in Playa Larga? Apparently the one in Playa Larga was the first one. We sent a message to the command post. How could we know that was the main control? When news kept coming about the Playa Larga landing, that combat had taken place with the squads and also landing on Giron. The first conclusion we arrived at was that they were going to attempt to occupy a pice of the national territory. That strategy was logical because it could not be thought that any mercenary expedition could defeat the people of Cuba. That had to be the beginning of a mechanism to facilitate a U.S. intervention through the OAS, that was very clear. They already had the mechanism, organized groups, leaders, president, ministers, chiefs, everyone.

It was not conceivable that a mercenary force, even if was 1,500, 5,000, 10,000, or 100,000 could have defeated the Cunan people. It was clear that they were promoting foreign intervention. No one believed the idea that success was based on the people's rebellion, not even the authors. If they genuinely believed that at one time, then it is an example of how unsuccessful they were.

However, that was not the problem. That was not the plan. It could possibly have been the expectation of those who organized that mercenary expedition, yes. But what they did was not aid a rebellion. It was very clear from the beginning. They were looking at part of the territory, it was very clear to me. They could not attack the Isle of Youth because it was fortified. If they could not land at Trinidad, a part of the territory that could be defended from both directions since one would have to use roads between mountains to arrive there and unite with the escambray bandits, then it was apparent that the territory possible for this was the Cienaga de Zapata, separated by a swamp that was more than 10 to 15 km wide.

The swamp could be crossed at three points, between Australia and Playa Larga, Covadonga and San Blas on the east, or Yaguarama and San Blas. There were three roads that were easy to cut off.

When we heard the news of the encounters with the squadrons in Playa Larga and Giron, we became aware that it was the most likely place to carry out what they could not do at Isle of Youth or Trinidad. The attack came from that location.

Measures were immediately taken to send the first units to that area. It was clear that if they landed there, we would have to secure one of the three roads and we tried to secure the one that was the closest. It did not matter to us that they could take control of part of the territory in addition to the two other roads. At least one road had to be in our hands and that was the mission given to the school responsible for the militia and two battalions that were in that zone. They had to secure one of the roads. The necessary troops began to be mobilized to combat the enemy, but not 100 percent of our troops. It did not include 100 percent. It was a small percentage of the total forces of our country, but they began to mobilize units, tanks, anti-aircraft artillery, and infantry in that direction. They proceeded with caution in the event that the enemy would land at different points because one had to consider that it was a distractionary maneuver.

There was more news by morning which began to confirm that the enemy's main strike was to be in that area and because of this, airplanes were flying in that direction before morning. When it was definitely confirmed that the main strike would occur in that location the paratroopers landed during the morning to take the Yaguarama-San Blas and covadonga-San Blas roads. Australia and Playa Larga were in the swamp area. The enemy did take the two rods but the militia was waiting for them.

Those who were landing at the swamp enterance could not take any positions. The ones who tried to land in the south on that same road did not have time to take any positions and one of the roads remained in our hands. That was very important. I think we would have squashed them even if they had taken the three roads. The tanks would have passed over them, as occurred in some locations.

As I said before, it was a 10-km road in the middle of the swamp that could absolutely not be crossed. It was converted into a route that was easy to defend, very easy to defend from tanks, mortars, antitank weapons, and a so-called superior air force, which is what the enemy believed they had and they were indeed superior in numbers. They were greatly superior in numbers with approximately 30 airplanes. We had approximately 11 planes and 7 pilots. The secret was the way those airplanes were used.

The calculations of the Pentagon and the CIA seemed reasonable. The famous brigade with its company of tanks and numerous antitank weapons, artillery, and paratroopers, and others who were very well-trained by the CIA and the Pentagon could have held that part of the territory. The arrival of the paratroopers convinced us without a doubt [of the location of the main strike] because they did not have many paratrooper groups, it became evident.

The objective of the revolution was to prevent them from having time to do anything, to not give them a respite. Above all, we could not allow them time to consolidate a part of the territory. They had prepared the provisional government, which was waiting in Miami with their suitcases packed, to land in Playa Giron.

The curious thing about all of this is that they selected a location that had characteristics similar to Trinidad or the Isle of Youth, easy to defend. They landed at one of our most familiar areas. We knew the location almost as well as the Sierra Maestra because the revolution had occupied the most distant and poor areas of the country, not because of military reasons, but because of social reasons. Two tourist centers and three roads had been built in just a short time.

It is peculiar that the three roads had been built by the revolution and the Giron airport had also been built by the revolution, so we were very familiar with that area. Therefore, a response plan was designed quickly. Of course, we could not determine how many planes the enemy had. We had to be careful in this, we had to avoid mistakes. We had no doubts about what we had to do with our planes. Our planes' mission was to sink the mercenary squadron. So at the same time their planes tried to strike our troops and support their troops, our planes concentrated in sinking the mercenary squadron. Indeed, after 2 or 3 hours all ships were either sunken or fleeing. The famous squadron, with its auxiliary ships, did not last even 3 hours. The Yankees had been protecting them during several days. They escorted them with plane carriers and destroyers [preceding word in English] but nevertheless they were in Giron and Playa Larga in a very short while. [applause]

They were not able to last there. Even the communications command post was sunk by our Air Force's accurate strikes which also downed some enemy planes. Of course, our troops could not be given protection. Around 11 in the morning or between 10 and 11, two planes were sent to provide support to the militia leaders to cross the road heading. it was the only time that the planes were taken away from the top of the squadron to support our forces.

However, a large movement of enemy planes was seen. We did not know if they were 20, 50, or 100. I did not know how many planes the United States could send. This is why the troops were always accompanied by many antiaircraft forces. During the day they were given instructions not to go there anymore, especially artillery and tank units. They were told to go beyond the Jovellanos limits, to not get near the operation zone during the day.

But at dusk, there was a torrent of artillery, men, and tanks. Of course, there were not many tanks because there were only five tank retrievers at the time. Those were modern, the rest went on their own tracks down the road, over 200 km, but they were getting closer and at dusk those tanks were there. There was enough land artillery, antiaircraft artillery, and all the necessary infantry. The enemy was not given a minute of truce, not even a minute. That is important.

During the 64 hours -- because they were 64 hours, 72 or less it is said they lasted 72 or less, but actually they landed around midnight and by 6 in the afternoon there was no organized resistance. They were completely disbanded. They were not given a minute of truce. Of course, forces were sent in the remaining directions but the majority went on that direction and we wanted to reach Giron that same night. Flavio recalls in one of his stories the instructions he had because he was in one of the tanks, in one of the first four tanks that charged the enemy. He says they had to arrive in Playa Larga, continue to Giron, and then go to San Blas, all in one night, he said. Maybe Flavio or some of the readers may think that was not wise. But I am completely convinced that they could have reached Giron in the morning, at least by the morning of the 18th. We did not have to wait until the 19th.

Enemy resistance was fierce there in Playa Larga, but as I said, we knew that area like the palm of our hands. At the Playa Larga command we were planning simple and elementary flank movement through a kind of narrow path, but large enough for vehicles and tanks. It is between Soplillar and Caleta del Rosario. We were waiting for the tanks that were coming on their tracks to organize the left flank movement, to surround Playa Larga over the west, divide the mercenary force in two, and rapidly advance during the predawn hours toward Giron. The enemy found the tanks in Giron possibly before dawn. A battalion was sent to Cayo Ramona to also divide the enemy between Giron and the road it had occupied toward Covadonga and Yaguarama. That battalion was sent by land.

It was at that time I thought we should determine a more accurate time for the remaining tanks to arrive, but the Havana command post contacted me and informed me an enemy landing was taking place in the western side of Havana. I thought that was very strange. I thought, did they have enough forces after the effort they are making here and after dropping the parachuters? Did they have another army to send to the western side of Havana? I asked if they were certain of this, if it was confirmed. I was informed it was confirmed that our forces had made contact with the enemy. That happened around 0130. We were waiting for the tanks and with the news that the enemy was landing on the western side of the capital and that it was confirmed, and that contact had been made, I left for Havana. I actually regret it very much, because even though that idea seemed exaggerated, that plan could have been fulfilled with the remaining tanks going in that direction.

Now historians will have to talk to tank operators because I had to go to the capital. I left a comrade there at the Australia command post. He did not have a lot of military experience and I left them all the instructions, asked them not to make a movement, not to conduct the operation. I returned. I arrived at dawn. That highway we have now, which shortens traveling time so much, did not exist. It took 3 to 4 hours to get there. We did not have means of communications, our cars did not have communications equipment to contact Havana. We could talk over the phone in specific places. We did not even have communications

I was disappointed to see that the landing news was false. I really thought a great combat was going to be waged. I thought it was going to be worse for the mercenaries because we had the majority of the forces in Havana. We even had the force of the Navy, two frigates that had artillery installed. We had filled it with antiaircraft parts so the Air Force could nave participated in Havana. I was closer. The Navy could have participated and we had many more forces and more combat means that what we had in Giron. When I arrived here I confirmed there was no such landing.

I will always feel the pain that the left flank operation could not take place that day before dawn. The enemy made strong resistance in Playa Larga. As a result, under the pressure of forces, it withdrew at dawn. But it withdrew, it could join the ones who were in Giron. On the contrary, they would have been divided in two with the simple task of blocking the road. And what happened? The Yankee squadron simulated a landing. Indeed, it had simulated a landing and it is known that they used electronic means and gave all the impressions of landing and combat. That aid given by the Yankee squadron allowed the mercenaries to remain 30 more hours there. They should not have lasted 48 hours by any means. If they remained 64 hours it was because of that maneuver, that simulated landing the Yankees conducted.

On the 18th, because of the resistance taking place in the Playa Larga area or the west side, and the fact that they joined all their forces in Giron, caused the offensive to advance through Covadonga and Yaguaramas. So on the 18th, fierce fighting took place because they offered a desperate resistance. Maybe they were waiting for the U.S. Air Force and fleet to intervene. Fierce fighting also took place on the 19th. We even used two or three helicopters we had at the time. We placed a force several kilometers east from Giron. Helicopters were used to push a bazooka company, to place them in the road that goes to San Blas to push them back since they were offering tank resistance in that direction.

All those moves were made. They were tricked. The group that was placed toward Cienfuegos, east of Giron, was told to keep silent, not to give signs of life. That was turned into a kind of trap where all the worms were going to be collected when they began to flee toward Cienfuegos, toward the east where fighting was not taking place. Actually, there were no plans of taking over Giron on the 19th. We had other plans. We were placing 10,000 missiles, with (?oboe) cannon and 122 shells. The plans for the night of the 19th was to wipe them out completely and retain the position on the 20th.

At that time, I went from the command post to the San Blas leaders' post in the afternoon, around noon. We had no communications. I had to stop in each town to call over the phone. I believe I was around Jovellanos or nearby when I called over the phone and was told there was a new mercenary landing. I asked, has the Air Force detected many boats between the Yankee ships and Giron. I started to think, another landing at this time? A new landing? I knew that the forces advancing from Playa Larga were very close, kilometers away, very close to Giron. The others had already reached the road and were advancing.

I told the commanding post comrades, it is not a landing, it is an evacuation attempt. It is an evacuation attempt [Castro repeats himself]. We recommended the Air Force use all its means to attack all those vessels which were heading to the coast [as heard]. We continued to go toward San Blas. We asked Petrito to please use the artillery at its full potential and to attack Giron -- which had not been taken yet -- as well as the sea. We could not allow the mercenaries to escape. At that time the aim was to prevent them from escaping.

Of course, all this battle was waged before the eyes of the Yankee squadron and plane carriers. No one knew what they were going to do but no one worried about that. Actually, when some destroyers [preceding word in English] came close, the 86 cannons were pointed toward them. I remember that when we arrived in Giron, the first tanks which got there were placed in front of the Yankee squadron at night. They had all their lights off. The entire Giron battle was waged within sight of the Yankee squadron and its plane carriers. I believe this also shows the courage of Giron combatants.

News was received that an attempted evacuation was underway and it was assumed that it was another landing. I was sure that it was an evacuation. This determined that the operations be continued for a 2d day and that Giron be taken that same day to prevent the mercenaries from escaping. And that is precisely what happened.

Upon analyzing all those events, and I repeat that some historian or a group of historians should make a detailed and precise account of all that occurred because there was a lack of communications between certain units which was a serious problem, I also remember that after arriving in Giron, the (Pederito) artillery, from which we had not received any information, continued bombing.

I imagine that what happened to the mercenaries is what happened to us in the bombing. Each time a plane took off the earth shook and when they fired their weapons we knew where they would fall because we were then under the bombing of our own artillery because of a lack of communications. The final orders were to place four of our comrades in four tanks, four commanders, one in each tank, because we heard reports that the road was penetrated by a group of mercenaries with anti-tank cannons.

The lack of communication with the other forces in Playa Larga kept us from knowing exactly what was happening and the order was given for the airplanes to proceed at full speed above the tanks and the planes did take off at full speed. It seems that the mercenaries, upon feeling the rumble, at some moment had abandoned their position and when the tanks arrived there, they clashed with the troops that were coming from Playa Larga. There were many incidents such as this, unfortunately, because of a lack of communications. That, however, was not an obstacle. It was not a pretext for the forces to fail in their mission.

Another incident occurred. I did not intend to speak so extensively on this, but just a little to recall those events, to recount something to the new generations and to the millions that were born after Giron.

As I said before, it lasted 64 hours, 64 hours [repeats himself]. Demoralization was total, absolute. The next day there was a great effort to collect weapons, prisoners. The mercenaries were so demoralized that we collected prisoners in the east and pushed those who remained scattered so that they would fall in the hands of the troops that were situated in that area. At certain moments there would be strong and accelerated shooting and then one of our tanks advanced and clashed with our own troops.

I was told, "there is a group offering persistent resistance." That we received resistance on the morning of the 20th is doubtful. It would have been very hard. Nevertheless, we sent mortars and troops into that area. They had clashed with each other. We, who are now familiar with this, can say that there were preoccupied with the prisoners they took the day before, which was a mercenary company or at least one squadron with a tank, when they saw the tank approaching.

Another clash occurred among ourselves, which, fortunately, was not fatal. There was some shooting and still, no one knows how they became aware that they were not enemies. Fortunately there were no casualties. But that was the tenacious resistance which they had reported to me as being offered by the mercenaries. It was very strange because all of this has its psychological background, its own laws. The demoralization was total. Those mercenary forces were demoralized. Isolated groups do not resist tenaciously or lightly or at all because the mercenaries believed that they did not have a true, profound, just cause to defend.

During those moments when I was going in that direction, I did not realize that, along the edge of the ocean where the road continues for 30 meters and is covered by trees, I passed by a squadron of armed troops. I did not see them, but they did see me and they recognized me. They did not shoot. They were totally demoralized. This did not seem strange to me. Not a single mercenary fired any more weapons from the moment they became disorganized. Not a single one. Some remained in the "Houston" which had run aground at the edge of the Bay of Pigs so that they would not sink since Carrera [not further identified] had fired a rocket directly at them. It was a direct rocket impact and the ship was sinking and they were jumping out, leaving a complete battalion.

Of course, on the 20th they still did not know what had happened there and they were still putting up some resistance on the night of the 19th. That problem was also resolved later. I would say that the most noteworthy thing in all those Giron incidents was the courage, patriotism, and daring of all those combatants. This was the most noteworthy thing of that battle -- the behavior of all the men who participated in that battle.

The Air Force, the seven pilots, well they eliminated the squadron and part of the enemy air force that had not been eliminated by the anti-aircraft artillery. The enemy air force practically disappeared; it was destroyed. The squadron was partly destroyed and what was not destroyed fled at full speed and was never again seen in that area. And we only had seven pilots. They had approximately 30 planes.

The courage of our tankmen, of our artillery men, of our anti-aircraft operators, mostly boys 16, 17, and 18 years old; our infantry, and constantly advancing without stopping despite the risks, advancing against an enemy that had established its position and who had to be dislodged; without communications, when every chief had to act at his own discretion; the courage and behavior of the companeros who were given their missions. During the first attack in the early hours of the 18th against Playa Larga, the tanks drove up to the enemy trenches and one of the tanks fell into one of the trenches. The infantry advanced along the road in the hours of the night and early morning. It was a straight road with no protection whatsoever. Every companero given an order carried it out instantly, without hesitating. This is what we saw in Giron, heroism.

These conditions caused us to have greater casualties. The enemy was entrenched; our forces had to march in a straight line. The enemy air force inflicted many casualties because it attacked buses carrying personnel, it attacked trucks transporting troops on various occasions. They used tricks to do this. They would fly over and wave and our companeros would think that these were our planes. They would then turn back and use their machineguns. This inflicted many casualties to the point that 156 companeros died in these actions, including those that died after the battle in which they were wounded.

Back then we did not have the means we have today; we did not have the experience we have today; we did not know what we know today. However, this taught us how important medical assistance can be. Had we had the medical assistance that we have today, or the means that we now have, we could have saved many of those who died later. That is the truth.

Hundreds of companeros were wounded during those battles. I will repeat that the most important thing was the courage, patriotism, and revolutionary spirit of the combatants.

Another event of greater historic importance was the fact that it was precisely on the day of the funeral, at the moment of the funeral of those who had fallen in the bombing, the socialist nature of the revolution was proclaimed. [applause] This has as much historic important as the Giron combats have. The truth is that this occurred before the battle of Giron, before the outcome of that battle.

The imperialists said that this was a revolution betrayed. The revolution makes laws for the people, just laws, laws that had already been announced. These laws had been announced right after the attack on the Moncada Barracks. It was the Moncada plan which was strictly observed.

One of the first laws was the one decreeing lower rents. Another of the early laws was the intervention of some public services, and the recovery of stolen property. Of course, the most important law, the one that unleashed the anger of the empire, was the agrarian reform law. This was not an extremely radical law, it was only slightly radical if we take into consideration that there were large latifundia. Many U.S. enterprises had tens of thousands of hectares. One U.S. enterprise had more than 200,000 hectares. Therefore, a law that establishes a maximum of 400 hectares would be considered a very radical law.

Nevertheless, in the world, if one takes into consideration the amount of land allowed to landowners, this was not a very radical law. In the first land reform law drafted, landowners were allowed up to 30 caballerias [land measurement]. However, since this hurt the interests of the great U.S. companies, it led to the decision to wage war on the country. In May, the land reform law was enacted. There was a package [conjunto] of revolutionary laws, which were contained in the Moncada Program which was not yet a socialist program.

However, imperialism, of course, began to take measures against the revolution. It began to take economic measures, that is, to close all credits. It threatened to take away the sugar quota. It gradually did take away our sugar quota.

In the face of every enemy action, the revolution reacted. U.S. companies were nationalized. The oil refinery was intervened [intervino] because it had refused to refine Soviet oil since apparently the Soviet oil was communist, and therefore different from the rest. The Yankee refinery could not refine communist oil. We proved that it was possible to refine that oil. We intervened in the refinery and thanks to the help from the workers the Soviet oil that had arrived was refined. At that time oil from Venezuela was still refined.

As a result of the revolutionary laws which sought to punish the murderers, the henchmen, and to recover money stolen from the country, and the other measures I have mentioned, they [not further identified] began to say that the revolution was betrayed, or that this was socialism or communism and, therefore, the revolution had been betrayed. There in Playa Giron, in the wake of the aggression and the bombings, as our people were facing an imminent attack whose scope and consequences were unimaginable, at a moment in which we were probably facing the greatest war in all our history -- since no one knew something that began that way was going to end -- the socialist nature of the revolution was proclaimed. [applause]

Therefore, [applause] our people then began directly fighting for socialism, for a socialist revolution. To be sure, at the time of the attack, and as result of all the measures that had been adopted before, partly in response to the actions of the imperialism, or in response to the actions by the counterrevolution, we could say that the revolution's socialist phase was begun. On 13 October 1960 -- following the nationalization of 35 Yankee sugar centrals on 6 August, as well as the nationalization of other companies such as the oil refinery on 6 August 1960 -- on 13 October, we nationalized all the banks. In addition, 383 major companies in the country were nationalized. By the time of the mercenary Playa Giron attack, the bank had been nationalized, the huge monopolies had been nationalized, Yankee properties had been nationalized, the major companies had been nationalized. The country had regained control over its natural resources and industries. A phase was beginning.

It was openly explained that those men had died and fought for socialism. Let us say for socialism fought and died, all those who have fought and died in Cuba in each of its historical phases, if we view socialism as what it is, a higher phase in the developement of human society. For those who rebelled with Carlos Manuel de Cespedes, fought with Ignacio Agramonte, Antonio Maceo, Jose Marti during the first war of independence which at that time immediately led to the abolition of slavery, and this action was as radical as the nationalization of Yankee properties and the country's great companies.

At that time the world was unthinkable without slavery. Therefore, in our patriots' struggle for our independence, when they rebelled against Spain, when they urged the peasants and slaves to join the liberating army they carried out a tremendously radical action for independence, for the fatherland's freedom, and for justice in our peace. And socialism is the higher form of justice. It is the higher form of humanitarianism. It is the higher form of dignity and fraternity among men. It is the higher form of true freedom. [loud applause] Thus, we can accurately say that those who have fought throughout our fatherland's history, from October 1868, also fought for socialism. However it took place for the first time at an advanced phase in our history and development of our society and people. They were one of the most heroic peoples of this hemisphere, because they had to fight against Spain alone, they fought alone against hundreds of thousands of Spanish soldiers when our population was barely over 1 million.

And they left us those heroic traditions which we later picked up in 1953, when we began the last and definite struggle for independence. Those fighters made possible these advances. They made it possible that before 100 years had gone by, we could begin building socialism in our country.

As I was saying, our people have been one of the most heroic people of this hemisphere. This is history, these are not made-up stories. These are events. These are the things our people did last century, and then there are the things our people did in this century. Therefore, we were convinced that the people who were capable of doing what they did in the last century were also capable of doing what they did in this century, [applause] that is, of carrying out the heroic deed of becoming the first socialist state of the Western Hemisphere. This is something that our current and future generations can be proud of, our country was the first. [applause]

In this century, in this hemisphere, we had to fight alone and many years against the Yankee empire, which is much more powerful than the Spanish empire. We were even betrayed by most of the Latin American governments. Our people won the right to fight for freedom, independence, justice, and socialism. Those who on the eve of the invasion, fought and died in Escambray, in other provinces of the country, fighting against the bandits, all of them were fighting also or socialism, as well as those who died in secrecy, and those who died in the Sierra Maestra, and those who died in Moncada. That is the idea, the conviction that we have.

But they were saying that we had betrayed the revolution. On the contrary; never has there been more loyalty for a revolution. [applause] But so that you will have no doubts, and so that all those thousands of fighters who were capable of so many heroic deeds will have no doubts, in Giron we were fighting for socialism, openly, so that the imperialists and their hypocrites would have no doubts. [applause]

These are two great historical events. Some U.S. reporters were expecting an uprising that never took place. Some of them even said that this did not happen, because very rapid measures were taken with the dissidents. The counterrevolutionary worms are called dissidents, as you well know, [laughter] because they did not rise up. In fact, many of them were arrested because we knew who they were. However, they were so divided, they had such very little force, they were so demoralized that even if they were chickens [laughter] they would not have risen on the morning of 17 April. [applause] The chickens rise every morning. However, these gentlemen would not have been able to do anything that even appeared to be an uprising, by any stretch of the imagination.

In order to carry out an uprising, it is necessary to have the support of the people. Since when did the counterrevolutionary worms have any popular support in our country? Do they not understand that? Others have said -- perhaps this is a little more logical -- that this was due to the fact that the laws of the revolution were popular. I am very happy that they say the laws of the revolution were popular. The laws that expropriate or confiscate property from the latifundists, the capitalists, the owners of large enterprises, and the Yankee monopolies are very popular laws. [applause]

But I must also tell you that what we did, these popular laws, these very popular laws are socialist laws and communist laws. [applause] Then I ask myself why so much antisocialism, why so much anticommunism, if the socialist and communist laws are popular laws. They are just laws. They are laws for which the people are willing to die. With that they confess, without realizing, that what has nothing popular or just is capitalism, the exploitation of man by man, the latifundism, the imperialist investments, and all those measures to exploit the people, to keep them in an uncultured and abandoned condition without medical assistance, many times without jobs, and involved in corruption and vice.

That is what they are confessing when, looking for justifications, they say that the people did not rise up because the laws were popular. We are very happy that they recognize this because this is the basis of the strength of the revolution: the justice that its laws and measures entail, the justice that those social changes entail.

Of course, those detestable things like mendicancy, prostitution, racial discrimination, illiteracy, and all those evils of capitalism -- which are much more evident in the capitalism of the underdeveloped world -- under no concept can they be popular. We are glad that they acknowledge that socialism puts an end to all those evils.

Many lessons can be learned from Giron. It is impossible to list them and I am not planning to do so, but I do want to point out something. On a day like today it does not matter if I repeat something that I have said on a previous occasion. The importance of Giron does not lie in the magnitude of the battle of the combatants or in the heroic deeds that took place there. The great historic significance of Giron is not what took place but what did not occur thanks to Giron. [applause]

I am not referring to the fact that capitalism would have returned to our country had they been successful in consolidating their beachhead. Because there was no way they could have established capitalism in our country again. [pounds on the podium; applause] I am not referring to the fact that it [the Playa Giron victory] prevented a plan that would have converted our country again into a Yankee colony -- because I am convinced that this country will never be a Yankee colony. [applause]

The importance of Giron lies in the price we would have had to pay for our revolution, the price we would have had to pay for socialism had the Yankee plan been successful and had they consolidated a beachhead.

Back then the Vietnam incidents had not occurred. The Vietnam war and the imperialist defeat in Vietnam had not occurred. And we, in such proximity to the United States, isolated, without any logistical possibilities, would have had to wage the battle of Vietnam in our own country, with a much smaller population than that of Vietnam, in a territory that is much smaller than Vietnam, and without any borders with a socialist country, but instead with the United States, the aggressor country.

How much would our people have had to pay for that battle had their plans been successful and had they been able to bring [the members of] that government who were left with their suitcases packed and standing next to the plane. [laughter] It is a shame that it did not arrive there. We would have had the complete little mercenary group there. We would have had all these big shots, the entire council of ministers. [laughter]

I was elaborating on an idea.... [Unidentified speaker: You were talking about the lessons] Oh, about the lessons. No, but what were we talking about? [Speaker: About that which Giron prevented.] Ah, that is correct. I went around in so many circles that I forgot. [laughter] That is why I ask you for help. [applause and laughter]

That which Giron prevented. That which it prevented. We were saying that we had to be the first ones to face what Vietnam faced later, but we faced it in our conditions, because, were they going to subject the people again? Were they going to bring capitalism? Were we going to surrender? [Crowd: No!]

It is clear that two things operated in Giron. The tactic used in Giron was a combination of the irregular war, the experience we had from the irregular war, and conventional war elements, which was the type of movement used in the enemy's rearguard. We had come from the Sierra Maestra and knew about this experience. We were not totally inexperienced. The country was armed. I said that we had thousands of weapons and a people who were willing to fight and die. Could they have disarmed these people? Let us suppose that they would have been able to consolidate the beachhead. Would they have been capable of occupying the entire country, the plains, the mountains, and the cities without fighting? [Crowd: No!] Would they have been capable of snatching away our 300,000 weapons? [Crowd: No!] They would not have been able to do that, and no one can be more convinced of that then us, who had already gone through the Sierra Maestra experience.

We, who were left with a few rifles and had an enormous army of 80,000 armed men to face, resumed the struggle with 7 rifles, that is all, 7 rifles. We had the rifles that were brought by the group that was with Raul, and those I brought. There were seven rifles. And we had a large army to face. Were they able to take the seven rifles away from us? [Crowd: No!] These rifles were multiplied many times, and they continued to increase. But the fact is that the specialty of Cuban revolutionaries was to fight with the enemy's weapons.

When the war was over, more than 90 percent of the rebel army's weapons were weapons taken from Batista's army. [Words indistinct] our philosophy was to fight with the enemy's weapons. Imagine, had the Yankees and their OAS underlings intervened here, would they have been capable of snatching away our 300,000 rifles? Never.

They could have started a terrible war in our country. Thousands, perhaps millions of Cubans could have died, but they would have not been able to subject us. Because I am sure that in the end, instead of 300,000 weapons, we would have wound up with 1 million weapons. And let the Yankees know this as of right now, so that they know what will happen to them in this country. [applause]

Giron meant that those who died there saved the lives of thousands of Cubans. We would have achieved victory anyhow, but at a terrible expense and at the expense of the country's total destruction. This is one of the lessons we must draw from Giron. This is one of the things that the new generations must understand. They must always know that this is one of the indelible lessons of Giron. But Giron also had other consequences, which show the price that these imperialist adventures may have.

As a result of Giron, the defeat suffered by imperialism, its resentment and humiliation, the initial imperialist steps aimed at a direct aggression against our fatherland and at seeking revenge were taken. This led to the measures that later caused the October crisis and almost led the world to a nuclear war.

So you see the implications of the irresponsible acts of imperialism through Giron. Its defeat almost led the world to tragedies that were infinitely greater. This is another consequence of the lessons. [sentence as heard] These are the unpredictable consequences of the irresponsible acts of imperialism.

Giron also teaches us the treachery, the aggressiveness, and the voracity of the imperialists, their form of acting, their style. Many will remember that after the bombing of 15 April they said that it had been our Air Force that had rebelled. The U.S. representative said this in the United Nations. He calmly told this great lie. It is still not known whether the man knew what he was saying or if he was deceived, because they deceived their own people. At that time the chief of the U.S. delegation was Stevenson, a politician who had some prestige in the United States, who passed as a liberal. They made him say this. He stated that. You see the methods and style of imperialism. It was a treacherous, surprise attack at dawn. It was with airplanes carrying the insignia of the country. Look at what a degree of treachery!

However, not only Giron showed the imperialist aggressiveness and treachery. Before Giron they had organized a similar plan in Guatemala, and they had overthrown the democratic government of Arbenz. The CIA had used a plan similar to the one organized in Giron. They committed a mistake. They did not realize the difference in the circumstances in which they carried out that adventure and the ones in which they tried to carry out this adventure. After Giron they intervened in Santo Domingo with tens of thousands of soldiers to crush the revolution. After Giron they carried out their brutal and bloody war of Vietnam which cost millions [as heard] of lives of those heroic people. After Vietnam, after Giron, they promoted the intervention of the South Africans in Angola to prevent the triumph of the MPLA [Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola]. After Giron they promoted the reactionary intervention against the Ethiopian revolution. After Giron they carried out a great number of aggressions against the Arab countries and the Palestinian people through the Israeli state. After Giron they intervened wherever there was a revolution. They organized dirty wars wherever there was a revolution or liberation. The same thing in Cambodia and Afghanistan.

After Giron they organized their dirty war against Nicaragua. They mined its ports. They promoted the formation of mercenary bands that have committed all types of misdeeds and crimes. After Giron they supported the genocidal Government of El Salvador, which has cost the lives of tens of thousands of Salvadorans. They supported the genocidal Government of Guatemala, which has cost that country, after the intervention against the Arbenz government, more than 100,000 lives and tens of thousands of missing. After Giron they intervened in Grenada. After Giron they intervened in Lebanon. They strafed, bombed, and killed Lebanese. Twenty-five years after Giron they have just intervened in Libya. This shows the aggressive and treacherous nature of imperialism. Everywhere the same method, the same lack of scruples, the same total absence of morals that teach us what imperialism is, its treachery, its voracity. Imperialism today has the Latin American peoples by the neck, with a public debt of almost $400 billion, high interest rates, dumping [preceding word in English], and protectionism.

Imperialism is insatiable. That is what Giron shows us, because they did all that here to recover their property, to establish their capitalism, to again seize the natural resources of this country, and for this same reason they have waged wars everywhere.

This is also one of the important lessons of Giron. It is an unforgettable lesson. To understand what imperialism is and the role that it plays against the peoples, the role that it plays against mankind's hopes for peace, the role that it plays against the interests of Latin America, one does not have to read Marx, Lenin, or Engels, because all these actions I have mentioned took place much later than Marx, Engels, and Lenin. They show the Latin American peoples who it is that divides them, who exploits them, who keeps them in underdevelopment and poverty, who intervenes against them, who plots against their independence. This is one of the lessons that we have to think about, that helps us to understand the phenomenon of imperialism.

Precisely around this time, the 25th anniversary of the victory of Giron, on 15 April, the empire lashes out with claws by carrying out a surprise attack, a treacherous attack against a small Arab country, a small Third World country. The brutal, shameless, criminal, terrorist attack was carried out against the Libyan people. We have witnessed it. Can you imagine a bigger example of perfidy and aggressiveness?

As a result of these events, Comrades, our representative to the United Nations declared in a strongly worded statement before the Security Council that these were the legitimate heirs of Hitler. The representative of France, who was presiding over the Security Council, protested such a statement by the Cuban representative. The illustrious French representative protested, and of course Mr Vernon Walters, the U.S. representative to the United Nations, said he was confused. We could say he was melting with gratitude for the French representative for having criticized such a comparison. I ask myself: Why was he shocked? Why close ones eyes before facts and realities? I am profoundly convinced that Reagan is as unscrupulous, opportunistic and irresponsible as Hitler was. [prolonged applause]

I would add that he is potentially more dangerous than Hitler, because Hitler did not have nuclear arms. Hitler did not have that arsenal of electronic arms, submarines, aircraft carriers, and all types of sophisticated equipment for destruction and death. Compared to what Mr Reagan has at his disposal, what Hitler had was the equivalent of bows and arrows and paddle boats. That is the comparison between Nazi Germany's destructive power and the U.S. destructive power.

Even if Hitler had wanted to do so, he could not have led the world to the brink of a nuclear war, could not have undertaken adventures which could practically signify the end of humankind. What have they done today in Libya? What have they done? It is incredible, an unbelievable act which violates all norms. All precedents have been broken. They have practically confessed that the objective of the air raid over Libya was to assassinate that country's leader, Al-Qadhdhafi.

THE WASHINGTON POST reported today that according to a Pentagon official they hoped to catch him. I am citing the article verbatim. The U.S. secretary of state himself said that one of the objectives was to eliminate the troops most loyal to Al-Qadhdhafi, who were stationed in those barracks, and provoke a coup d'etat. We knew that the United States had planned the assassination of political leaders in other countries. This is a cruel and barbaric method to settle political differences in today's world: plans to poison, attempts against the lives of leaders, all types of criminal acts, which have even been admitted by them.

But what had not taken place before, what set this precedent -- the government of one of the most powerful countries on earth has used its armed forces, its sophisticated bombers to attempt the assassination of the chief of state of another country, against which it has not declared a state a war. It has carried out a surprise and treacherous attack in the early morning hours. What is incredible about this, what they can no longer hide, is that the purpose of the attack against Libya was to assassinate Al-Qadhdhafi. They had no regard for the family. They knew the family was there. They knew that Al-Qadhdhafi's wife and children were there. Nevertheless, they sent dozens of aircraft to reduce that place to dust.

They had no concern for the lives of the civilian population, of the foreign embassies' personnel. They dropped a torrent of bombs over those places. It has been learned that one of Al-Qadhdhafi's children, the youngest, a 15-month-old girl, was killed in the air raid and other sons were wounded. On their own television screens, they themselves have demonstrated that the attack was directed against Al-Qadhdhafi, his residence where he was with his family. Nothing more repugnant than this can be imagined, nothing more brutal. Nothing similar has ever happened in contemporary history.

Why should anyone be shocked? Why should anyone be astonished? Why should anyone be shocked when it is said that Reagan is a legitimate heir of Hitler? From what I know of World War II, there is nothing similar to what Mr Reagan has done. There is no precedent of such a shameless attitude when they admit that those were their objectives. They are so cynical that, according to THE WASHINGTON POST, they had prepared a statement for immediate release in which they stated that Al-Qadhdhafi's death was accidental. One of those bloody pilots said he was frustrated because they were not able to fulfill the mission of assassinating Al-Qadhdhafi and his family, even though they assassinated part of the family.

Acts such as those have no precedent. How far are they going to go on that road? Why are the Europeans shocked? What is the difference between the Tripoli air raid carried out by Reagan and the Warsaw air raid, which marked the beginning of World War II? The Amsterdam air raid? The London air raid? What is the difference? Why were Hitler's acts, when he challenged a superpower equal in might, considered ignoble? Or were they more ignoble than Reagan's act of bombing the capital of a small country of the Third World? Do the Europeans not know that those adventures led to subsequent tragedies?

It is true that France suffered -- as its representative said -- the brutal treatment of fascism, but other countries suffered more than France, such as Poland, which lost 6 million lives, Yugoslavia, which lost million of lives, or the Soviet Union, which lost 20 million men, women, and children. [applause]

Because of all of this, we support and totally agree with the statements by Cuba's representative at the UN Security Council. [applause] What is the difference between Reagan's and Hitler's methods? Hitler used to begin undeclared wars with surprise attacks by his bombers at any time of day or night. He [Reagan] attacked Grenada by surprise. He mined the Nicaraguan ports by surprise, without declaring war in either case. By surprise, treacherously, he bombed Tripoli against all norms and traditions, including laws observed in time of war.

His style or false methods, or his methods of using lies systematically to justify or try to justify his acts, using all types of pretexts for the crimes perpetrated in Grenada, those perpetrated in Nicaragua, those perpetrated in Tripoli: these are Hitler-type methods. The offensive way in which public opinion is manipulated to seek support for his policies, by using the mass media: these are Hitler-type methods. His constant praise of chauvinism, cheap patriotism: these are Hitler-type methods. That is Reagan's behavior.

So I do not see the difference between the two; that is the truth. Right now, as a result of the Tripoli air raid, it has been reported that the polls reflect 77 percent support among the U.S. public. When the rest of the world, including the British public -- despite the fact that the British Government allowed Reagan to drag it into his adventure -- is against that action. World public opinion unanimously opposes what was done. Now we have the phenomenon that a majority of the U.S. public supports him. The same thing happened in Grenada. Of course, we also know that when Hitler invaded Austria the immense majority of the German people, poisoned by chauvinism and fascism, applauded the annexation. When Hitler started the war, using a prefabricated pretext, invaded and occupied Poland, the immense majority of the German people, poisoned by the war, fascism, and chauvinism -- all are the same thing -- applauded. When Hitler invaded Belgium, Holland, and Luxembourg, invaded France and occupied those countries' territories, the immense majority of the German people applauded, just as the U.S. people today applaud what took place in Tripoli and Grenada. Hitler's crimes, what is the difference?

If there is any difference between the two, it is that Hitler did not have the might and therefore was not as dangerous as this U.S. Administration is, with its equally irresponsible and unscrupulous acts. I believe there are too many coincidences to call them accidental. That is why we have to ponder about topics such as this on a day like today.

Companeras and companeros: In our country, the party's program is being discussed among the people. At the end of the year, in a special meeting, the delegates to the third congress will analyze and approve this program.

The conditions in which the program was created and in which it will be implemented are not easy. In fact, the conditions plan, the 1985 plan, the 5-year plan, and the perspective plans -- are not easy at all. On a day like today, we must also think about these things. There are circumstances -- some of them even appeared after the congress -- which make the task more difficult to attain, but it is not unattainable.

Late last year, our country received nature's blow: the hurricane. It affected 60 percent of our sugar cane. It made the sugar harvest more difficult. Despite the great effort made by our workers, doubtlessly the final results will show that our sugar plans will be affected by no less than 1/2 million tons. And this figure is not greater, it is not 1 million or 1 and 1/2 million tons thanks to the effort of our sugar workers.

However, we not only had the hurricane. Something that is paradoxical and even incredible is that the drop in the dollar affected us. Many will ask: How is it possible that a drop in the dollar could affect Cuba? Precisely, the imperialists wanted to reduce the value of the dollar because they have a large trade deficit and, in order to compete with the Japanese and the Europeans, they reached that agreement among themselves because those who demanded it. They adopted measures that decreased the dollar value. Therefore, for us who sell sugar and all our exports in dollars, if sugar is sold for 4 or 5 cents, when the dollar drops, these export prices drop. But, basically, the prices of our experts increase because we are not importing from the United States in the convertible area. We import from Japan and Europe. In that case, we only acquire fewer German marks, French francs, English sterling pounds, and Japanese yen for a dollar. With a ton of sugar we then acquire fewer products in these countries. If we imported from the United States then this situation would be favorable for us, because the dollar would be cheaper.

All these paradoxes happen to our blockaded country. We suffer the negative consequences both when the dollar is up and when it is down. But not only that, another surprising thing: The reductions in the price of oil affected us. They are affecting us a lot. Bear in mind that we also expert oil, part of our production. In addition, all the oil we save from that which we import, we export.

I had to talk about that in the wake of the energy forum, about what it meant to save 1 gallon of fuel, 1 barrel, 1 ton, cent by cent. [Words indistinct] thanks to the enormous savings efforts, while sugar prices were especially low, one of our main foreign exchange revenues was oil exports. We received millions of dollars. With the price reduction, we have been affected by practically two-thirds of the oil price [as heard] and we have been affected by millions of dollars in convertible foreign exchange. It has practically ruined the enormous savings effort we have been making.

All this that I am mentioning about the oil occurred in a few weeks, even after our congress was held. This increases the country's difficulties. This forces us to make a bigger effort. Why am I mentioning these matters on the occasion of the 25th anniversary? Because now we are not fighting the mercenaries. We do not have mercenary invasions. But we have mercenaries. They are people who play the role of mercenaries. Sometimes they are even good people, people whom we call good. They are people who are willing to fight for the revolution but who do things that go against the interests of the revolution. And many of them do not even have a profound revolutionary awareness.

All of this forces us to make an effort. At the party's congress very specific lines were drawn. Harsh criticism was made of existing problems. And we vowed to fight these problems. We vowed to detect them one by one and to fight them.

As we were saying, we were discussing the program. Without these problems I am referring to, we would have to comply by the line drawn by the congress. But even now it is more important and decisive to comply with this line. We must be much more intransigent with all that is done incorrectly.

We must carry out a struggle that is much more consistent against the problems that come up. I discussed this with the Pioneers in the wake of their 25th anniversary. Even more so, we must discuss this problem with our people.

Today, we do not have the problems we had 25 years ago. But we do have people who are apathetic and negligent. These are the people, I told the Pioneers, who do not want to participate in the struggle. They are irresponsible people. They are people who are not too demanding within the sphere of their responsibilities. They are tolerant people. We have people who seek privileges. We see people who want to make easy money not from their work, but from crooked deals, speculation, and illegal businesses.

On a day like today I do not want to have to refer to the examples that exist, some of them shameful, when in an apparently legal way they have earned in 1 year 100,000 pesos and even more. Tell me gentlemen, how this is possible in socialism. I know that some people painting and selling paintings even to state institutions have earned more than 200,000 pesos in a year. This is just to cite an example of incomes that do not seem to me to be really the fruit of work because, companeros and companeras, they are not the paintings of Picasso or of Michelangelo. [laughter]

This naturally shows the irresponsibility, so many irresponsible people because it is the people's money trying to compete, some have confused work on their own with capitalism or with capitalist business freedom. Some have confused that. Yes, we have some of those problems. If someone earns 100,000 pesos, you can imagine that someone who earns 100,000 pesos earns 20 times what the doctors who do heart transplants earn in a year. Twenty times. I have seen self-sacrificing and modest doctors with their salaries of 5,000 or even 6,000 pesos a year while some individuals, making crooked deals, have earned 100,000 and more.

You know well how critical I have been with the practices of the peasant free market. Individuals would sell a clove of garlic for 1 peso. They would pocket this. It was not the peasant working and sweating honestly. With all the facilities that the revolution gives them, education for children, medical assistance, all the possibilities, there was no lack of any facilities, and nevertheless, they did not enrich themselves by cultivating the land. Instead, they enriched themselves by stealing, by selling expensively, very expensively. There have been other practices regarding merchandise that must be handed over and which is not, so that it can be sold in the other market. It is a practice, an experience. We ourselves have created the things that have originated this problem. We must know how to opportunely correct this because there are people who confuse one thing with another. We have to see some of our directors of enterprises. [applause]

The first thing that a revolutionary cadre, a socialist cadre, a communist cadre must ask himself is not if his enterprise profits more, but how the country profits more. From the moment that we have alleged businessmen who worry more about the enterprise than the interests of the country, we have an out-and-out capitalist the system of planning and management of the economy was not made for that, not to begin playing at capitalism.

Some shamefully play at capitalism, we know and see it. These things must be corrected the same as some who, increasing prices, want to be profitable and distribute bonuses by charging any sum, charging any sum.

In that way, anyone can be profitable, right? A few days ago I visited the director ... [changes thought] I visited the Ameijeiras hospital. They said they had some well-maintained elevators with stainless steel sheets. I went to see some new equipment that we had acquired, very sophisticated, very useful, very human [as heard]. One admires the effort being carried out in that hospital by the doctors, the specialists the workers. And they told me, do you know how much they asked for placing that stainless steel sheet? 10,000 pesos, 10,000. How many workers? Only two. How many days? Fifteen days. Well, the salary expense must be about 300 pesos. One really has to be shameless, I am not saying the workers, but those who organize these deals, to charge 30 times the wages for a 15-day job. That would be profitable. [laughter] We have seen that spirit. To fix a floor, that job of polishing the floor, the hospital was charged 40,000 pesos.

We already talked at the congress about these problems that we must fight. These are distortions and deviations. We know of the problems concerning the deviations of resources. We have witnessed them.

Not too long ago, I was touring an area, looking into some problems and I found a crane. Someone was trying to build a roof. To do this, he had gathered there a 17-ton crane, [correct himself] a 16-ton -- it was a (?caterpillar) crane -- a Japanese cement mixer, a truck to carry this mixer, a water truck, and a little pig to roast and give to these who helped him, in addition to beer and other food. [laughter]

The three trucks were coming from three different work centers. The crane came from the brigade that is building the thermoelectrical plant in the east. I saw this myself, no one told me about it. [laughter] No one told me this. [applause] The other truck with the cement mixer came from the oil company across the street from the children's city. The water truck came from a quarry that is on the highway. This man by himself, with his friends and relatives had gathered, on the same day, a crane, a cement mixer, a truck, and another truck. And who knows where he got the materials from. [laughter] He was building a house.

We are glad that people build houses, but let them build them honestly. They should build them honestly...a house of 150 square meters. If he sells it, he will sell it later for 40,000 [currency not specified] and he will have a buyer because those who steal money in one way or another and these who have large incomes that do not come from work, buy a house very easily, or even the capital if you sell it to them [laughter]

This then is a problem. Where do these millions of pesos come from? They do not come from work. The state gives resources, credits, and everything. The state gives credit for purchases. There is no need then to divert resources. There is no need to get involved in crooked deals. There are many needs. Needs exist. They are big. We need everything.

When I was telling the comrade president of the Planning Board about this story, he told me: On Sunday, I found a crane doing the same thing. But it was a 40-ton crane. [laughter] Can you imagine? That which we do in the big industries done by people here who have such ability and friends. There are so many people lacking control that it would be worth asking the brigade and the enterprise that are building the thermoelectrical plant in the east how was it that they did not realize that they were missing the crane for 3 days, because they took it out on Friday and it was returned on Monday.

And there must have been someone there who gave him a chance [dio un conduce] to justify this, and there was a coverup, and we know all those things exist. We know of people who look for privileges at any expense and who divert resources.

Of course, this is a struggle. When we talk about the party's program, the congress, and the measures, this does not mean that we are going to start a campaign today. We do not want to carry out a cultural revolution here. We do not want to solve the problems through extremist methods and stir the masses. We know this. We know how to do it. And I am convinced that the masses are the ones that can win this battle, and within the masses, I am talking about the masses of our party and youth. This also requires more vigilance from the committees. The committees know what is going on. If all of a sudden someone starts to build a super house and then it is sold and all that; we cannot adjust to things that are done incorrectly in this way. We cannot get into this kind of situation.

I think that here, well, if someone is involved in a crooked deal without the people and the masses knowing it... [changes thought] we do not want to stir the masses. We have the party, the youth, and the organizations. What we should do is to carry out a serious political work. We must pressure from top to bottom and from bottom to top, with much force. [applause]

Our party must be on the alert, be very alert. We have 500,000 party members. You can imagine, that is tremendous force. We wish we would have had an organization of 500,000 members when we began the struggle against the tyranny plus another 500,000 members in the youth, that is a force, the mass organizations, the millions of men and women organized in unions, in committees, the federation [of Cuban women], and the Pioneers. It is a tremendous and incredible force which, properly used, could put an end to all those things. Without extreme measures. We do not have to exaggerate. It cannot be done in drives. It must be a sustained struggle. As I was telling the Pioneers, we must continue fighting the remnants of the old system, the remnants of capitalism, the ideology of capitalism, the parasitism, the privileges, and the trend to receive in a privileged way without maintaining any relation to the work performed.

We have talked about the socialist formula: From each according to his ability to each according to his work. [sentence as heard] This formula is very clear. It is not egalitarian. [applause]

But I would like to know by virtue of what miracle or what diabolical mechanism an individual can make 10 times what a prominent doctor who saves lives earns. These are things that are not going well and these are consciences that are not working well. These are also officials who are not working well, not because of the money. [applause]

There are some who believe that socialism can be done without work, without political work. Well, some believe that it can be done without work because there are many of those. Others believe that it can be done without political work. [as heard]

We are doing some work with the hospitals in the capital. The problems they had... [changes thought] we met with all the leaders of the party, the youth, the nurses, and the union. The party in Havana has been doing serious work and the results are evident. There are enthusiasm and good spirits at the hospitals. It is not a matter that is done in a day. The party in Havana meets every month with the secretaries of groups and hospital committees.

This is a political work and through political work we can solve many problems. We are trying to implement certain just measures such as normal conditions for auxiliary workers. We are also studying multiple tasks [multioficios] better salaries for auxiliary workers, as was done with doctors, but all of this within the socialist formula. We are looking into the possibility of savings because the country has not been able to develop because of all the problems that must be solved. Lack of organization and inefficiency can be overcome by the people. That is political work. We cannot talk about profitability there because there is no enterprise budget or bonus. If we talk about bonuses too much we would be corrupting workers and would be telling them that things can be achieved through bonuses only. [applause] It has to be acknowledged that the socialist formula includes the bonuses and even the cousins, too. [play on words primas and primos] [laughter]

That results from good work, truly good work, and not through bonuses because it is a false profitability because prices were exaggerated and because 40,000 was charged for an apartment and 10,000 for a job that could have cost 500. [sentence as heard] These are profitable factors because it is easy to cover up lack of organization and inefficiency by increasing prices.

In addition, certain construction brigades such as that of Cienfuegos and that of the FEEM [Federation of Secondary School Students]. [sentence as heard] I called a comrade because we began to hear talk of up to 16,000 workers in construction. I sent him a message saying no, they had to make do with the number we had talked about -- 12,000 -- because another way to cover up lack of organization and inefficiency is by keeping track of what each man can do. And let me tell you that is a good brigade with very good cadres. The workers there have been receiving facilities, special uniforms, special work boots, and special food.

When I heard the figure 16,000 I said no, they must make do with 12,000, with 12,000 if, in addition to that the transportation workers are working more hours. The inefficiency and lack of organization cannot be covered up with more and more men because the figure would become 20,000 then 25,000 because of peak moments.

I am mentioning certain problems. I am talking about a good brigade of great builders to whom I made certain commitments and they also made some commitments to me. We have made an effort to improve their standard of living and other [things]. There are many people who, instead of asking workers to make a greater effort and fulfill their duty, [pounds on podium] go around inventing things, adding more people, which is easier but more costly for the country. We would run out of resources, then we couldn't give you the special uniform and shoes.

There are some of these things on which I meditate. Not long ago, I read in the paper about the problems of the Santiago de Cuba textile factory. People from various sectors met, from the party, and so forth, and what I read in the paper surprised me a bit. It said that this and that problem must be solved to achieve full capacity because there is not enough stability in the labor force. There must be more recreation and so forth, and cultural events, and so on. There must be a guarantee that housing problems will be solved. The possibilities for higher education must be guaranteed, too. I don't know how many things they wanted guaranteed in the end. One of the workers said that it is very difficult to reach that goal by 1990 but we will try. But it is very difficult.

I ask: What would happen if this textile factory were in Brazil, where there are many unemployed, so many people going hungry, where they do not have this textile factory? So many things are needed and so many promises must be made for the textile factory to produce at 100-percent capacity. Is this the way socialism is built? Is this how we believe socialism must be built? Without any appeal to the workers' duty and without any appeal to the youths' obligations?

I was saying that an underdeveloped country that must develop cannot be offering all kinds of things to make a factory work. One must know how to call the youths and workers to their duty and tell them: Produce! [applause]

And tell workers: Work ernestly. Reach the limits of production. Work, because first we have to have production and then the marvels because the revolution has made great efforts to guarantee jobs for all youths. However, we are an underdeveloped country in the face of imperialism and blockaded by imperialism.

It is not a matter of promises. We must call everyone to duty. I think that we must mention these things on a day like today because we have struggled, shed blood, and made many sacrifices to have these things. Apparently, some don't even know this or have not bothered to know what world they live in. [applause]

It is not a matter of coming here just to praise our past glories and pay homage to the dead. Homage is not paid to the dead in 1 hour, 2 hours, 1 minute, 1 second, or 1 day every 25 years or every year. Those who died and sacrificed for the revolution, generation after generation, must received our homage every day, every hour, every minute, and every second. [applause].

What are we going to tell the mothers who have lost their children? What are we going to tell the women who have lost their husbands? What are we going to tell the children who have lost their fathers and grandfathers in the revolutionary struggle, because I can see children there, 8 and 10 years, relatives of the fallen? Are we perhaps going to tell them that if I do not have a house next to the factory, I am not going to work in the factory? As long as the house is not built and even if it is fair to build the house next to the factory, if we need fabric and we have the (Balans) textile factory that can produce up to 15,000 cubic meters per ton of thread for our textile factories; ah, but there is not sufficient stability in the labor supply, houses must be built, we will wait until we have all the houses there in the corner. [sentence as heard] With houses alone the problem is not solved. You can have the house and go to another job. I think the problems must be resolved with Dignity, honor, and principles. We have to appeal -- and it would be demagogic not to do so -- to our compatriots and workers' sense of duty.

Of course, it was poor planning building the textile mill and not building a minimum of housing when one knows these problems. But the revolution does not have resources to solve everything. I think these [words indistinct] all that I have mentioned who are our enemy now, those who are the ones doing the work of the mercenaries, those who seek privileges and sinecures, who sidetrack resources, those who want to pocket money that they have not earned with their sweat, making crooked deals and speculation. It takes all kinds to make a world. [laughter] They are not a majority by any means but we have the duty of combating them because this minority can do these things only if the majority is passive, apathetic, and does not have a critical spirit and I am aware of the critical spirit of our people. I know the qualities of our people.

This struggle is going to bo long. It is not going to be a quinquennium long. All of our lives we are going to have to struggle against this tendency because, as Marti said, there are always two groups, those who build and those who destroy. There is a large and numerous group that builds but there is also the other group with the unaware, the apathetic, and the irresponsible. It does not have to be counterrevolutionary. There are some who do not realize that such is the way to act as a mercenary. We have to appeal to the honor and dignity of our compatriots, which they have demonstrated before in history.

I think this and all that we have said and remembered is very fitting on a day like today. It also reflects the world in which we live. All that I said about Mr Reagan's Hitlerite methods is showing us, for example, that the efforts our country carries out for its defense are not useless. We know that there is a need for schools, that there are old schools, some in bad conditions, above all primary schools, that there is a lack of housing, that we lack many things, that we lack sports and cultural centers. All of those things we want. Every year we have to invest hundreds of millions in fortifications, in defensive measures. We have to devote tens of millions of work hours to train the people. This takes energy and effort. These are efforts that we have to take from productive tasks so that they can be dedicated to training. Hundreds of thousands of tons of cement, steel, and all kinds of materials must be invested every year in defending ourselves. It is another price to be paid because of imperialism.

Today an occasion of this anniversary and in light of these meditations, we see how right we are in preparing the people for struggle. Because we were strong, we saved ourselves from a terrible war 25 years ago. Another lesson of Giron is that we have to be strong perhaps to save ourselves from a terrible war. In the measure that we are strong, that we are efficient, that we are hard-workers, that we fulfill all our duties, we will help prevent imperialist aggression because the imperialists, as opportunists, know where there is weakness, they will attack, where is strength, they use moderation. People are not only strong because of their patriotism and the weapons that they have but by their behavior in general. How the imperialists would like it if these problems and vices that we have mentioned would be multiplied because they know that we would be weakened, that we would be less strong to resist. Therefore, patriotism forces us not only to train, to form a combat unit, and to handle weapons but to fulfill all our duties every day of our lives.

The revolution has advanced and progressed much. It has achieved great successes but those who think that the new generations do not have equal or greater tasks than those which the generation of Giron or those who preceded it had are mistaken. They are mistaken. The struggle will be long, hard, and last for a long time. This 25th anniversary teaches us this. The list of imperialist crimes shows us this because we have an increasingly more aggressive, more arrogant, more powerful imperialism. This is a challenge for the entire world, for all the revolutionary forces, for all the socialist countries, for all democratic and progressive forces.

It is a great effort and struggle. No one should think that a single generation already did everything.

One generation does one part, perhaps a small part. The new generation must work even harder, and those coming behind that generation will have to face an even greater task. That is the truth; I want all our fellow citizens to become aware of this truth.

We must mediate on a day like this, so that we may tell our heroes and martyrs, those who had to suffer and sacrifice themselves more than others, that we will never let anyone spoil the fruit of their efforts. We will never let anyone squander or misappropriate the fruit of their sacrifices. We will struggle with the same courage, zealousness, and strength that they had fighting at Playa Giron. We will struggle endlessly, without respite against everything that still seeks to weaken the revolution.

Referring to the foreign enemies and dangers which lurk around us, we will also tell our heroes and martyrs, those who gave everything for the revolution, whose sacrifice brought sorrow for their dear ones, that the revolution will not only know how to defend itself from weaknesses [correct himself] from its own weaknesses, but also from its foreign enemies. This country will never allow the return of capitalism; this country will never become an imperialist property. We will tell them, like Antonio Maceo said in an immortal phrase, that whoever tries to take over Cuba will only find the soil awash with his own blood, or else die in the attempt!

Free homeland! Or death! [shouts, applause]

NONALIGNED MINISTERS CONDEMN U.S.-ISRAELI TIES

PA212305 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 20 Apr 86

[Text] The Nonalignment Movement in New Delhi has condemned the establishment of a strategic alliance between the United States and Israel, which is bringing about destabilization in the Middle East.

The final declaration of the Nonaligned Ministerial Conference stressed that the U.S.-Israel; alLiance and aggressive policy are threatening Middle Eastern and world peace.

The nonaligned foreign ministers reaffirmed their active solidarity with Arab nations who are victims of Zionist aggression and with the just cause of the Palestinian people. They also urged the UN Security Council to take effective measures, including the imposition of sanctions specified in Chapter 7 of the organization's charter, to achieve the immediate withdrawal of Israel troops from occupied Syrian land. They also condemned the Zionist attack on Tunisia and the hijacking of a Libyan commercial plane last February.

After denouncing the military, economic, and nuclear cooperation between Israel and the South African regime, the final declaration of the nonaligned foreign ministers' voiced concern over the dangerous situation created by the Zionist invasion of Lebanon in 1982. They called on the United Nations to order the immediate withdrawal of Israeli troops from that Arab country.

In addition, the movement reiterated its call to the Governments of Argentina and Great Britain to resume negotiations on the Malvinas problems. The nonaligned foreign ministers reiterated their firm support for the Argentine right to recover its sovereignty over those South Atlantic islands.

They also condemned meddling in the internal affairs of Haiti, especially by the United States. They said: That activity constitutes disregard for the right of that Caribbean people to freely choose their political and economic system.

POLICE, STUDENTS CLASH; CLASSES SUSPENDED

PA220148 Paris AFP in Spanish 2356 GMT 21 Apr 86

[Text] Santo Domingo, 21 Apr (AFP) -- Violent clashes between students and police today forced the suspension of activities at the State University of Santo Domingo. The students started to demonstrate at the university campus and adjacent area in downtown Santo Domingo, demanding the release of several companions, including Manuel Salazar, president of the Dominican Students Federation. The students were arrested last Friday when the students, protesting the U.S. attack on Libya, clashed for several hours with police. Today the violent incidents broke out again and anti-riot police resorted to the use of tear gas. The students responded with stones and Molotov cocktails. The police made an undetermined number of arrests.

Calm returned after university activities were officially suspended by order of Rector Fernando Sanchez Martinez, who immediately convoked the university council to analyze the situation. It is probable that the closure will be maintained until 16 May, which is the date scheduled for general elections, several news media have indicated. Until late in the day the police maintained a cordon that prevented traffic through the university zone.

CANDIDATES 'CONCERNED' ABOUT VOTING FRAUD

FL121450 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 12 Apr 86

[Text] In the Dominican Republic, two opposition leaders vying for the Presidency say they are concerned about electoral fraud in the May 16 general elections. Former Presidents Juan Bosch and Joaquin Balaguer both said the ink used to mark voters who have already cast votes washes off easily and could result in people voting more than one time.

PREFERENCE POLLS FAVOR MAJLUTA FOR PRESIDENT

FL171906 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 17 Apr 86

[Text] In the Dominican Republic, presidential candidate Jacobo Majluta, of the ruling Dominican Revolutionary Party, is leading in voter preference according to a voter survey just published. The electoral poll determined that Mr Majluta is leading former President Joaquin Balaguer by 8 percent. Voters in the Dominican Republic choose a new president on 16 May.

BOUTERSE SENDS CONDOLENCES TO AL-QADHDHAFI

FL181942 Paramaribo International Service in English 1800 GMT Apr 86

[Text] Yesterday, the commander of the Surinamese revolution D.D. Bouterse sent the following message to the Libyan leader Colonel Mu'amaar al-Qadhdhafi: Deeply shocked and greived by the loss of so many human lives and the extensive devastation in the cities of Tripoli and Benghazi, I offer you and your family my most sincere condolences in view of this sad event, especially with the personal loss you suffered for the tragic and untimely death of your beloved foster daughter. I sincerely hope that a peaceful solution for the conflict can be reached in the interests of the government and the people of the Socialist Libyan Arab Jamahiriya as well as for world peace and safety.

Requests Nonaligned Meeting

FL182004 Paramaribo International Service in English 1800 GMT 18 Apr 86

[Text] The chairman of the Nonaligned Movement received a message from the leader of the Surinamese revolution Commander D.D. Bouterse. Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi received the following message:

I felt deep sorrow and was very shocked when I heard of the sad event which occurred as a result of the conflict between the United States of North America and the Socialist Libyan Arab Jamahiriya which resulted in a great loss of human life and extensive devastation. I would like to request a ministerial conference of the Coordinating Bureau of the Nonaligned Movement which now assembles under your competent leadership to take the lead of the noncontribution [as heard] to solve this conflict into consideration, a conflict which has already led to acts which are indecent [as heard] of the basic principles of our organization and which constitutes a serious threat to world peace and safety. I sincerely hope the meeting will be successful.

AMBASSADORS DISCUSS ECONOMY, ADJOURN MEETING

FL111830 Paramaribo International Service in English 1800 GMT 11 Apr 86

[Text] Yesterday, the annual ambassadors conference was concluded at the Department of Foreign Affairs. During the meeting, Minister Herrenbery of foreign affairs stressed the serious financial economic crisis which now grips our country. This was also the guideline of the conference. The diplomats and Department of Foreign Affairs had during the meeting sought ways for the foreign service to make a contribution to the improvement of the economic situation. According to information from the Department of Foreign Affairs, the diplomats have received specific instructions and an annual plan on the basis of which they will return to work abroad.